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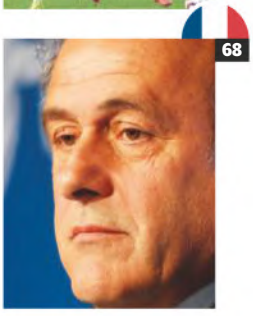

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The global game caught on camera

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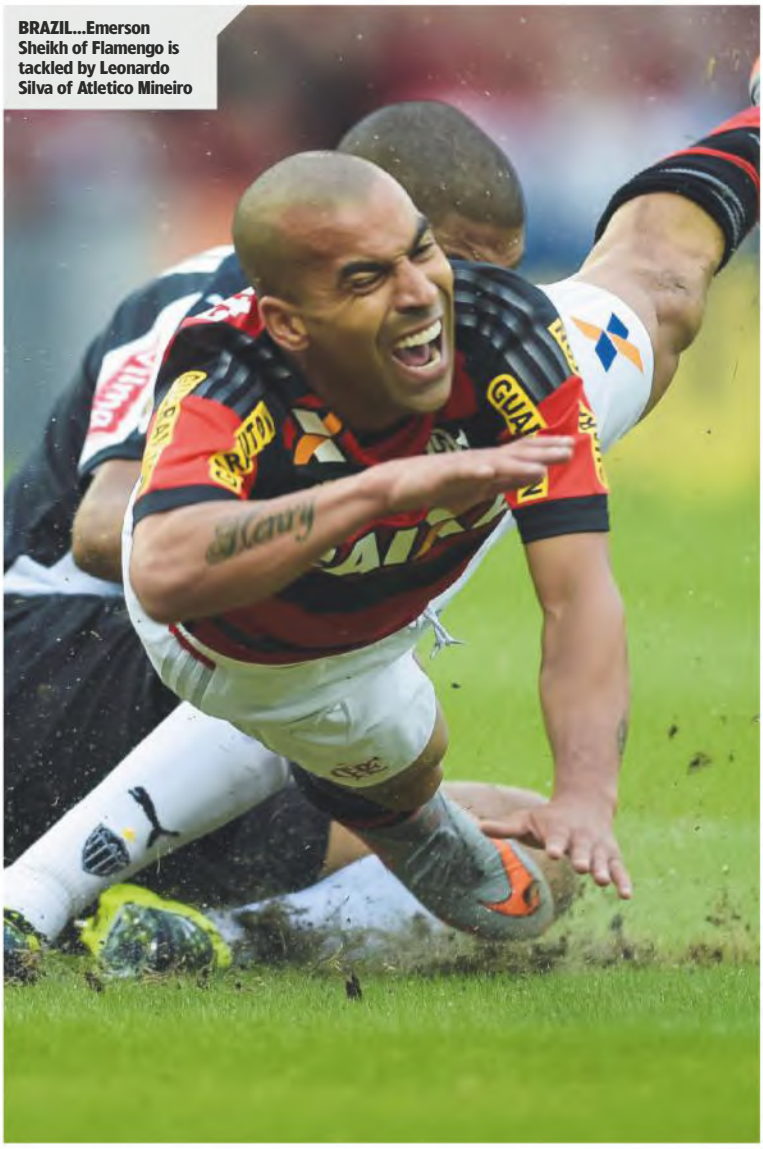
CANADA...defender Robyn Gayle greets fans prior to Canada's quarter-final match with England at the Women's World Cup

WALES...Gareth Bale is fouled during the World Cup qualifier against Belgium in Cardiff



BRAZIL...Emerson Sheikh of Flamengo is tackled by Leonardo Silva of Atletico Mineiro

CZECH REPUBLIC...Sweden's players receive a team talk prior to their Euro Under-21 group match against Portugal

MYANMAR...fans watch live coverage from Singapore of Myanmar's 2-1 win against Vietnam in the SEA Games

MALAYSIA...Palestine players pose for a photographer as they celebrate beating Malaysia in a World Cup qualifier

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FROM THE EDITOR

Xavi has graced the cover of *World Soccer* before, in 2010 when he was voted World Player of the Year. It seems fitting, on the occasion of his final match for Barcelona, to feature him again.

The tributes to Xavi (page 42) have been long and justified. One of the most intelligent footballers to have played in Europe in recent times, it seems highly likely that he will return to Barcelona in a coaching capacity in the future. While Xavi earns petro-millions in semi-retirement in Qatar, so Steven Gerrard begins a new phase of his life in Los Angeles with Galaxy (page 50).

Xavi and Gerrard are a rarity in the modern age: players who spent their entire careers in Europe with a single club

Both are a rarity in the modern age: players who spent their entire careers in Europe with a single club. Food for thought, perhaps, for Raheem "Pound" Sterling as he (and his agent) contemplate his next move in the transfer market.

Sterling, though eligible, was not in the England squad that took part in this summer's European Under-21 Championship (page 86). Manager Gareth Southgate chose (diplomatically?) to select only players who featured in qualifying. Sterling's absence may have contributed to his country's early exit; it may have not. We will never know.

We do know that Xavi first came to global attention in 1999 when Spain won the world under-20 title. It was his first success in a long and fruitful career. One that very few players, if any, will emulate.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1 Hosts Chile win Copa America ..... page 26
2 Sweden claim Euro Under-21s ..... page 86
3 Serbia success at World Under-20s ..... page 80
4 America victorious in Women's World Cup ..... page 76
5 Xavi leaves Barcelona ..... page 42
6 Steven Gerrard joins LA Galaxy ..... page 50
7 Minnows surprise in Asian World Cup qualifiers ..... page 82
8 Guernsey win Island Games ..... page 84
9 FIFA crisis continues ..... page 18
10 Parma relegated to Serie D ..... page 78

Thrashed... Micronesia (in blue)

ASIAN OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

46-0: a new unofficial world-record defeat

The Federated States of Micronesia suffered a 46-0 thrashing by Vanuatu at the Pacific Games, which double as the qualifying tournament for next year's Rio Olympics. But because Micronesia are not affiliated to FIFA, the defeat will not be recorded as an official world record.

The defeat, in which Jean Kaltack was Vanuatu's top scorer with 16 goals, means Micronesia conceded 114 goals in three games, also losing 30-0 to Tahiti and 38-0 to Fiji in the tournament.

"It was boys against men" said Micronesia coach Stan Foster, who added that for many of his players it is was the first time they had played on an 11-a-side pitch. "Most of these have never been out of their villages let alone on to another island. I took them to Guam the other day [and it was] the first time they've been on an elevator or an escalator.

"It's been a huge step-up for these guys and they've just been overawed really."

"I can't just suddenly kiss another badge now"

Hamburg's Marcell Jansen announces his retirement

USA

Whistleblower Blazer banned for life

FIFA has banned ex-executive committee member and former CONCACAF general-secretary Chuck Blazer from all football-related activity for life.

A FIFA statement said Blazer "committed many and various acts of misconduct".

Blazer, 70, worked undercover with prosecutors in the United States after pleading guilty to charges of bribery, money laundering and tax evasion. In May, several FIFA officials were arrested on charges of racketeering, fraud and money laundering.

HEROES & VILLAINS

PATRIK CARLGREN

Sweden's goalkeeper saved two spot-kicks as his side beat Portugal on penalties in the Euro Under-21 Final.

Spot on...Carlgren was in fine form in the Final

MARCELL JANSEN

Announced his retirement, at the age of 29, after being released by Hamburg as he could not sign for another team because he was too emotionally tied to the German club.

GO AHEAD EAGLES

The Dutch club appointed fan Henk De Haan to their board so he could see the Europa League game away to Ferencvaros, despite the Hungarian club's stadium ban on spectators.

MARTUNIS

The 17-year-old Indonesian, who was found alive wearing a Portugal shirt bearing Cristiano Ronaldo's name following the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, signed a deal with Sporting Lisbon – where Ronaldo began his career.

Sporting...Martunis and Ronaldo

NEYMAR

Brazil's captain was sent off against Colombia, after the final whistle, for aiming a headbutt at goalscorer Jeison Murillo and banned for the rest of the Copa America.

Temper...Neymar (right) hits out against Colombia

JOHN DELANEY

The Football Association of Ireland boss took €5million from FIFA and then had to pulp 18,000 programmes for the game against Scotland in which he had written an article condemning corruption at football's governing body.

CLINT DEMPSEY

The Seattle Sounders striker was suspended for ripping up the referee's notebook and shouting at both the ref and his assistant during the US Open Cup game against Portland Timbers.

Disgraceful...Uruguay's Cavani (left) and Jara

GONZALO JARA

The Chile defender was banned for three matches after he allegedly stuck his finger up Edinson Cavani's backside, and then feigned injury, during their Copa America quarter-final.

"Let's be realistic: the love of a club's shirt is a completely utopian concept nowadays"

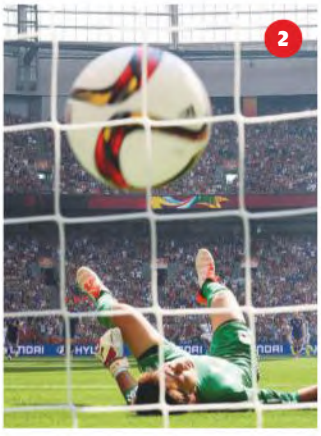
Following the departure from Marseille of a host of key players, an anonymous agent offers his take to the local paper, *La Provence*

GOALS we'd like to see again

To see video footage of these goals, and many more that we have selected, scan the QR code using any free QR reader that can be downloaded to your smartphone. You can also see the videos by logging on to http://po.st/js4PW4

1 JACK WILSHERE
England v Slovenia
A curling strike with his left foot, beyond the reach of the goalkeeper and into the top corner for his and England's second goal of the game.

2 CARLI LLOYD
USA v Japan
Completes her hat-trick in the Women's World Cup Final with a shot from the halfway line that loops over the head of the keeper.



3 EDUARDO VARGAS
Chile v Peru
A dipping shot from outside the area secures Chile's place in the Copa America Final.

4 OLMES GARCIA
Real Salt Lake v Columbus Crew
A wonderfully worked free-kick routine, featuring four players, is finished off with a tap in at the far post.

5 JONG TAE-SE
Suwon Bluewings v Pohang Steelers
Controls the ball with a superb first touch while tightly marked and finishes with a low shot.

6 SEJAD SALIHOVIC
Guizhou Renhe v Changchun Yatai
Curls a left-footed free-kick in off the underside of the crossbar on his debut for the Chinese club.

WINNERS

CHILE
The hosts won the Copa America and were crowned champions of South America for the first time in their history.

SERBIA
Beat Brazil 2-1 in the Final of the Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand to claim their first football title since becoming an independent nation.

TERRY BRADBURY
The 75-year-old, who earned £25 a week playing for Chelsea in the 1950s, won the £5.5million Lotto jackpot.

LOSERS

BRAZIL
Almost a year after their 7-1 World Cup rout by Germany, they lost the Copa America quarter-finals on penalties to Paraguay.

LIONEL MESSI
Despite his success at club level with Barcelona, he still has no major titles to his name while for Argentina.

CSKA SOFIA
Bulgarian champions a record 31 times, they will start the new season in the amateur leagues after relegation due to financial matters.

"Like others who profoundly love this club, I was ready to return and offer a helping hand"

Parma look to rise from the ashes in Serie D, with former coach Nevio Scala in the presidential chair

Notebook

Highlights from some of our regular on-line contributions

SPAIN

And so a club without a president, that is banned from signing new players, has signed a player who didn't want to run and can't play. Not for six months, anyway.

Like Aleix Vidal, who was signed from Sevilla, Arda Turan has left Atletico Madrid to become a Barcelona player – even though he can't play until January.

The club's ban on transfers does not end until the next window but, in practical terms, the ban is on registering players, not buying them.

Arda and Vidal will have to wait six months for their chance. And as the English twitter feed of the sports daily *AS* put it, tongue wedged firmly in its cheek, Vidal and Arda will have time to get very, very good at table tennis.

In Arda's case, he could yet get sent back to Atletico. Barcelona are immersed in presidential elections, so there is no board of directors or president at the moment. Instead, there is an interim committee whose job it is to oversee elections and carry out essential tasks so that the club does not simply grind to a halt in the meantime.

Sid Lowe

Wait...Arda won't be able to play for Barcelona until the new year

GERMANY

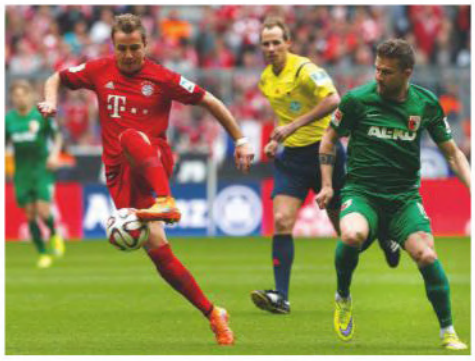
Just what were the motives of Mario Götze's agent, Volker Struth, when he bitterly complained to *Bild* that his client had not received enough support at Bayern Munich?

Was he simply expressing the World Cup winner's disappointment at not featuring more often in Pep Guardiola's first-team, for only making the bench in the Champions League semi-final against Barcelona?

Or was it the opening gambit in a bid to disturb the peace and force a sale?

Clearly Gotze and his camp are unhappy, but the two parties are not in the divorce courts yet, and ultimately all will depend on how the attacking midfielder starts the new season, his third at the Allianz-Arena since his €37million move from Borussia Dortmund.

Nick Bidwell



Unsettled...Gotze (left) hasn't had the best of times in Munich

Caught...Pulvirenti admits trying to fix games

ITALY

It would not be summer if Italian football was not up to its eyes in scandal. Yes, Italian football has again been rocked by yet another match-fixing scandal, this time involving Serie B side Catania.

Catania president Antonino Pulvirenti calmly admitted to state prosecutors that, yes, he had "fixed" five games during the last six weeks of last season. And, ironically, it had been Pulvirenti himself who had first attracted the prosecutors' attention when he filed a complaint to police last March, claiming that various Catania fans had threatened him. From then on, his phone calls came under surveillance, allowing investigators to make some discoveries – not about fan threats but rather about match fixes.

If some of the recent scandals have involved huge sums of money and international betting syndicates, this one is almost old-fashioned.

Pulvirenti claims he set about fixing games only to ensure Catania avoided dropping to the third division.

Paddy Agnew

Weekly notes from Brazil, Spain, Germany and Italy at **worldsoccer.com**

"Masopust was one of the greatest players I ever saw. But it's not possible he was born in Europe – with those explosive dribbles, he had to be Brazilian"

Pele (left), who was injured for the 1962 World Cup Final against Masopust and Czechoslovakia

OBITUARIES

An Eastern European great

Josef MASOPUST (1931–2015)
Different generations view their heroes from their own perspective, and Czech football fans are no different. For some, their greatest player was Pepi Bican from the 1930s and 1940s; for others it is the more recent Pavel Nedved. For all those inbetween, it was Josef Masopust, who died on June 29, aged 84.

A memorial tribute was held prior to the Euro Under-21 Final, between Sweden and Portugal, at Slavia's Eden Stadium in Prague. But rather than Slavia or their city rivals Sparta, Masopust made his name with Dukla Prague.

I had the privilege of meeting Masopust, along with some of his old team-mates, just over a year ago. He was modest, humorous and still a passionate follower of the game, even if attending matches regularly was no longer possible.

Star...Europe's player of the year in 1962

Highlight...scoring against Brazil in the World Cup Final

The respect in which he was held then, and back in his playing days in the 1950s and 1960s, was obvious from the manner in which old colleagues – Vaclav Masek and Josef Jelinek among them – referred to him deferentially as "Mr Masopust".

Jelinek said: "When I joined Dukla in the late 1950s it was the army club. We all wore uniform off the pitch and the older players had ranks. After I had been playing there two weeks, Mr Masopust said to me: 'I know I am a captain but you don't have to call me that on the pitch.'"

Masek recalled: "I played for two years with Dukla during my national service but otherwise I played all my career with Sparta. So I knew Mr Masopust as both a team-mate – also for the national team – and as an opponent. I used to hate playing against him because he was such a commander on the pitch.

"He always seemed to be one move ahead of you all the time."

History records Masek as scoring what was at the time the fastest goal in World Cup history, finding the net after just 16 seconds against Mexico in the group stage of the 1962 World Cup in Chile. Inevitably, Masopust had delivered the slide-rule pass which he put away.

Czechoslovakia went all the way to the Final that year, where they met Brazil in Santiago. Masopust opened the scoring after 15 minutes – he managed 10 goals in his 63 internationals – before Brazil went on to win 3-1.

Wistfully, Masopust recalled: "Of all my memories it was the best of all my career to be playing in the World Cup Final – and we were so close [to winning].

"At first we were disappointed to bring away only the silver medal because not only had we reached the Final but we had been in front. But, a few weeks later, we were happy we had won silver."

His personal consolation was to be hailed European Footballer of the Year, the first eastern European winner of the award.

Born in Most, 50 miles northwest of Prague on February 9, 1931, he played for the local team before joining Dukla – and the army – in 1952. He won eight league titles and four cups before being permitted to move abroad to Belgium where he led Crossing Molenbeek, as player-coach, to promotion.

Nominally a left-half, his interpretation of the role was more akin to the old-fashioned attacking centre-half who was the central focus of the team. He was still performing that way, at 34, when, along with fellow Czechoslovak half-backs Svatopluk Pluskal and Jan Popluhar, he played in Stanley Matthews' farewell match at Stoke City's old Victoria Ground in 1965.

As a coach he guided Zbrojovka Brno to the Czechoslovak league title, and was later his country's head coach for four years before going abroad to work for a while in Indonesia.

However, it was as a player – and a fine one, whatever the generation – that his name deserves to be remembered.

Keir Radnedge

Style...Niculescu's Romania were pass masters

Angelo NICULESCU (1921–2015)
Introduced a passing style when appointed coach of Romania in 1976, and a year later led the country to its first World Cup finals in almost three decades. Also took the national side to the quarter-finals of the European Championship in 1972. At club level he coached Dinamo Bucharest to the league title in 1955 and 1965.

CARLINHOS (1937–2015)
Nicknamed "the violin" for his elegant style, Luis Carlos Nunes da Silva played over 500 games for Flamengo before taking over as coach of the club. He had several spells in charge, during which time he won the Brazilian championship twice.

Winner...Zito (left) in the 1958 World Cup Final

ZITO (1932–2015)
A World Cup winner with Brazil in 1958 and 1962, the midfielder was a goalscorer in the 3-1 victory over Czechoslovakia in the Final of the latter tournament. Won the Libertadores Cup twice with Santos, in 1962 and 1963, and later joined the club's back-room staff, recruiting such stars as Robinho in 1996 and Neymar in 2003.

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Dribbing skills are in danger of meeting a violent end

On YouTube you can find a grainy, black-and-white video clip from a 1968 game in Brazil, between Santos and Botafogo. It shows Santos forward Kaneko dribbling into the Botafogo penalty area, where he suddenly performs the perfect "donkey manoeuvre", flipping the ball up with his heel, over his own head and over the defender. The execution is perfect and Kaneko runs on to set up Toninho to score.

Kaneko never became a great player, but he was long remembered for that "*lambretta*". We now leap forward 47 years, to the 2015 Spanish Cup Final between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao. Another "*lambretta*", this one from Barca's Neymar. But whereas Kaneko's effort had been greeted with cheers, smiles and celebrations, Neymar's caused immediate turmoil.

First, it didn't work, because the defender involved, Unai Bustinza, made no attempt to turn and chase the ball. Instead, he simply stepped into Neymar's path, stuck out an arm and pulled him down. After that came a disgraceful explosion of hostility and aggression from the Bilbao players as they tried, with frightening persistence, to get at Neymar.

Leading the charge was the intimidating 6'1" defender Xabier Etxeita, who had to be seriously restrained by Barcelona players and his own team-mates.

The Bilbao players were furious, claiming that Neymar was showboating, trying to make fools of them. No doubt they were also frustrated. There were only minutes remaining in the game, they were losing 3-1 and had been thoroughly outplayed.

The ugliness lasted for just one minute, but it was a minute of madness that starkly exposed just how the sport's attitudes have hardened since the days of Kaneko. Back then, the "*lambretta*" was an exciting bit of dribbling trickery, to be admired and applauded.

How things have changed. Football, once a dribbler-friendly sport that encouraged creativity, open play and goalscoring has darkened. The harsher, more miserly, mean-spirited attitudes of defensive play now dominate the game.

Inevitably, in a game where dour defenders and bossy goalkeepers rule, the goals have dried up. The three World Cup tournaments played during the 1950s averaged 4.3 goals a game. By the end of the century, in three World Cups of the 1990s, scoring average had dropped to just 2.25.

Those who predicted that this was a temporary state of affairs, a swing of the scoring pendulum that would quickly be reversed, were wrong. The four 21st century World Cups have shown only a slight increase, up to 2.4 goals, but in the four Finals, the goals have shrivelled to 1.5 per game.

> Neymar has perfected a dazzling piece of skill

The feeling that it is OK for defenders to foul opponents who have beaten them seems now to be firmly implanted in football. TV experts tell us "he had no choice, he had to bring him down", and are quite likely to confirm their own judgment by adding "that was a good foul".

The plea that referees do more to protect skilful players from violent tackles is heard repeatedly in football – and it has to be repeated because the referees rarely respond. But here we have something rather different. Defenders apparently needing protection from too-skilful opponents.

Neymar's "*lambretta*" may not cause physical injury, but it's a slur on the opponent's dignity. Neymar has perfected a dazzling piece of skill, a perfectly legal move, but it's more than defenders can cope with.

Next time, before performing his trick, Neymar must at least consider the scoreline. If Barca are losing, it's probably OK. But if they're winning comfortably, then, please, no "*lambrettas*". Cristiano Ronaldo might also consider limiting his stepovers – just two if Real Madrid are winning, maybe up to four if they're losing. Would that be acceptable?

While this may take colour and excitement and goals out of the game, we are asked to concede that it's all in a good cause – making life easier for the poor defenders. WS

Manhandled... Bustinza (left) gets to grips with Neymar

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

Fearful Blatter skips USA as FIFA crisis continues

No show...winners USA receive their medals but Blatter missed the Women's World Cup as the FIFA crisis spread

The Cold War has been revived by the FIFA crisis. Sepp Blatter is happy to travel to Russia for the forthcoming World Cup qualifying draw but daring to visit North America for the Women's World Cup Final was out of the question.

Blatter, if the United States Department of Justice should want to meet him face-to-face, is a Swiss citizen and cannot be extradited from the country – like fearful Brazilians back home in South America, such as Ricardo Teixeira and Marco Polo Del Nero.

Football is bigger than its individual officials – who come and go, though some stick around longer than others – and, indeed, far bigger than FIFA. Certainly, the senior World Cup underwrites the losses of all the other competitions but FIFA, to some extent, has deliberately created that dependency system to suit its own purpose.

The reverberations from Blatter's decision to "lay down his mandate" continue ever since being originally greeted with a mixture of delight and relief from – among others – UEFA president Michel Platini and Olympic leader Thomas Bach. But not by everyone. His words were met with regret in Africa and suspicion elsewhere that this represented merely some further Machiavellian power-game ploy.

FIFA has had only eight presidents in its 111 years. All have been European except for Brazilian Joao Havelange, but there was no likelihood this time around that a European candidate – not even Platini – would be favourite. Beyond Europe, a great deal of resentment already burned over what was viewed in some quarters as a UEFA coup.

Fikile Mbalula, sports minister of 2010 World Cup host South Africa, indicated regional concern by paying tribute to Blatter as the FIFA president who "has been a good friend to South Africa [and] played a major role in terms of shifting the world to focus on Africa in terms of hosting the World Cup for the first time".

That hosting itself now came into focus over the mysterious $10million which the South Africans had paid to the notorious Jack Warner, via FIFA, for a diaspora legacy development fund in the Caribbean. Currency exchange controls had prevented the South African World Cup organisation from paying the money direct, so it was paid by FIFA and deducted from a hosting grant due to South Africa.

The payment was approved by FIFA's finance chairman and senior vice-president at the time, the late Julio Grondona, and effected by Jerome Valcke, then the new secretary-general.

Warner himself returned to the spotlight through the US extradition application in Trinidad. He had obtained bail and, after promising at various times never to speak about football again, threatened an "avalanche" of evidence regarding corruption within FIFA.

In a televised address entitled "The gloves are off", and broadcast in Trinidad & Tobago, Warner said he would reveal everything he knows including allegations of FIFA meddling in his country's 2010 general election.

Privately, and more significantly, he engaged lawyers with a successful track record for blocking and delaying extradition applications.

South Africa was not the only hosting award under fire. Japan's bid for the 2002 World Cup was targeted by a former aide of ex-CONMEBOL president Nicolas Leoz claiming that $1.5m had been paid in return for the South American confederation's support. Current chairman Ohito KuniWataru denied it, after an examination of the JFA's accounts, saying: "There is no record of any such remittance at all."

Blatter's announcement was also a severe blow to Qatar. Slowly, gradually, the fuss over the 2022 World Cup host award had been fading, but now it was open season on the Gulf state again. To be fair, Qatar did not help itself when the government's advisory council rejected even comparatively mild proposals for a reform of laws relating to migrant workers.

Meanwhile, in Switzerland itself, Domenico Scala, the compliance chairman charged with overseeing the election, said he thought a maximum of 12 years – as per the International Olympic Committee – was long enough for any president.

Simultaneously, in South America, investigators from the tax agency prepared to delve into Grondona's family funds and also the late AFA leader's links to the TyC marketing group, several of whose senior officials were being pursued by the US Department of Justice.

TyC was heavily involved with Grondona in creating the Futbol Para Todos TV football deal through which the government channelled cash which was supposed to help alleviate club debts – not that any of Argentina's clubs has shown the slightest signs of a return to solvency, prompting the obvious questions.

So it went on, day by day, one step after another:

- TyC's Argentinian marketing executive Alejandro Burzaco surrendered to police in Italy.
- Former Brazilian star Zico said he intended to run for FIFA's presidency.
- Swiss investigators gathered more documents

and electronic data from FIFA headquarters in their inquiries into the 2018-2022 World Cup bid scandal.

- The Pope's charity decided not to accept promised cash donations from the Copa America from scandal-hit CONMEBOL.
- Ex-Brazil CBF boss Jose Maria Marin failed in a bid to leave a Swiss jail for house arrest on health grounds.

Ever more serious image-battering followed, starting with the sudden departure of FIFA's communications director Walter De Gregorio, followed by Interpol's decision to freeze its anti-matchfixing partnership with FIFA.

De Gregorio left suddenly, after nearly four years' spinning for Blatter, as the victim of his own ill-timed joke ("The FIFA president, the director of communications and the general secretary are all sitting in a car – who is driving? The police.")

He had been brought in, specifically by Blatter, to bring a more aggressive, instant-response approach to FIFA's PR work. As a journalist and former war correspondent he appeared ironically appropriate to the task in hand.

Banned...Mayne-Nicholls (left), who cautioned FIFA over the unsuitability of a summer World Cup in Qatar

However his attempt, pre-congress, to portray the arrests of the "Zurich Seven" as a "good day" for FIFA was derided and he crossed swords with Blatter over the president's reliance on veteran PR guru Klaus Stohlker.

The joke was on FIFA again when Interpol halted the $20m, 10-year partnership launched to great fanfare back in May 2011. Its then general-secretary Ronald Noble was a regular speaker at major FIFA events until his departure last year.

> De Gregorio left suddenly, the victim of his own ill-timed joke

The suspension decision was taken by Noble's successor, Jurgen Stock, and endorsed by Interpol's executive committee meeting in Lyon. The FIFA agreement had included a clause stating that "the funding party declares notably that its activities are compatible with the principles, aims and activities of Interpol". Clearly Interpol now believed this assurance no longer valid.

Blatter, however, carried on as if nothing untoward were happening. He even dropped mischievous comments to the Swiss media about his departure, prompting an irritated Scala to tell him, in effect, to stop playing word games. This putdown was followed by what, to Blatter, would have been far more painful – the Nobel Peace Centre's decision to call a halt to its partnership with the embattled world federation.

Blatter's Nobel Peace Prize ambition was long a source of wonder among FIFA-watchers as, over the previous three years, he had exhorted listeners at almost every occasion to share the Handshake of Peace. A statement from the Peace Centre acknowledged the positive symbolism of the Handshake for Peace but urged the Norwegian football federation to come up with a different promotional context and/or partner. Back in 2012 NPC executive director Bente Erichsen said: "I'm sure this partnership can contribute to the good of the game and develop respect." Now that respect had vanished.

Lids continued being lifted in all directions on the murky business in which some senior football officials had engaged down the years. None of the alleged deals – particularly concerning Warner and a cabal of South American "grandees" involved Blatter directly. But everything shown or reported to have gone on took place "on his watch".

New claims emerged over former CBF president Teixeira's links with Qatar and allegations of the extravagant extent of the money laundering and profiteering undertaken at the behest of Leoz, while president of CONMEBOL. Leoz, one of the 14 men sought by the US Department of Justice, remained out of sight under house arrest. Paraguayan law forbade that someone of his age should be held in prison.

Next came the seven-year ban imposed on Chilean Harold Mayne-Nicholls, the technical assessment leader who handed the FIFA ExCo the self-evidently obvious caution that it is too hot in the summer in Qatar to stage a conventional World Cup.

Mayne-Nicholls, who had considered challenging Blatter in May's presidential election, was a potential candidate again. Whatever the outcome of his likely appeals to both FIFA and then perhaps the Court of Arbitration for Sport, he has been effectively removed from the computations.

An ExCo extraordinary meeting on July 20 will decide the date of the new election. Blatter has suggested January, maybe so he can lord it at the overblown FIFA Gala one last time. He derided an initial suggestion of December 16 because this would sit right in the middle of the Club World Cup in Japan.

But then, as the Women's World Cup proved, the presence or absence of FIFA grandees is irrelevant when the game itself demands priority. WS

"Sadly, the results of Guus' work were not immediately visible to everyone"

Dutch federation vice-president Bert Van Oostveen makes a bid for understatement of the year in the wake of the resignation of national coach Guus Hiddink (left)

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

EUROPE

Porto's Colombian striker **JACKSON MARTINEZ** joined Atletico Madrid from Porto for €35million. For all the other big summer moves in Europe's top five leagues, go to **www.worldsoccer.com**

PAULO SOUSA took charge of Fiorentina in Serie A, while **SINISA MIHAJLOVIC** quit Sampdoria and replaced Filippo Inzaghi at Milan. Marco Giampaolo was named coach of Empoli.

Stepping up...former assistant Blind replaces his old boss

Blind replaces Hiddink as coach of Holland's national side

Former Ajax captain **DANNY BLIND** was appointed national coach of Holland following the departure of Guus Hiddink, who had overseen the team's stuttering start to the Euros.

Blind, an assistant to Hiddink and the previous coach Louis Van Gaal, has been tasked with rescuing Holland's qualifying campaign. The 2014 World Cup semi-finalists currently lie third in their group, five points behind leaders Iceland and three points behind Czech Republic, with four games remaining.

Blind, whose only other coaching experience was a short spell in charge of Ajax, has signed a contract until August 2018, with an "evaluation moment" planned next summer.

"Reaching the European Championship is my only goal," said Blind, who will be assisted by Marco Van Basten. "Only qualifying for Euro 2016 counts."

Hiddink had been in his third spell as national coach and was contracted until after the Euro 2016 finals.

Fresh challenge...Mihajlovic has joined Milan

DEJAN STANKOVIC, who won 15 trophies and played over 300 games for Internazionale, has returned to the Serie A side as part of Roberto Mancini's backroom staff. Former Argentina striker **HERNAN CRESPO**, who was a youth-team coach at Parma last season, took charge of Serie B side Modena.

In the Premier League, ex-England manager **STEVE McCLAREN** was appointed head coach of Newcastle United, while **RAY WILKINS** joined Aston Villa as assistant manager.

Despite being relegated from the Bundesliga with Paderborn, **ANDRE BREITENREITER** was appointed Roberto Di Matteo's replacement as Schalke coach. **ARMIN VEH** took charge of Eintracht Frankfurt for a second time.

FRAN ESCRIBA, who quit Elche after they were relegated from La Liga for unpaid tax, became Getafe's fourth coach since last summer. **JOSE LUIS MENDILIBAR** was appointed coach of Eibar for a second time.

Former Manchester United and England defender **PHIL NEVILLE** was appointed assistant coach of Valencia in Spain.

Greek double winners Olympiakos appointed former Sporting Lisbon boss **MARCO SILVA** as coach. Former Juventus and Croatia defender **IGOR TUDOR** took charge of PAOK.

Turkish league runners-up Fenerbahce replaced Ismail Kartal with **VITOR PEREIRA**, while **STUART BAXTER** was appointed coach of Genclerbirligi after leading Kaizer Chiefs to two South African championships in the last three seasons.

DMITRI KHOKHLOV replaced Leonid Kuchuk as boss of Russian club Kuban Krasnodar, Lokomotiv Moscow handed caretaker coach **IGOR CHEREVCHENKO** a permanent contract and **YURI SEMIN** took charge of promoted Anzhi.

IANIS HAGI, the 16-year-old son of former Romania captain Gheorghe Hagi, joined Serie A side Fiorentina from Viitorul Constanta in his homeland.

Thun's **URS FISCHER** replaced Paulo Sousa as coach of Swiss champions Basle.

PETER ZEIDLER stepped up from coaching Red Bull Salzburg's reserve side, FC Liefering, to take charge of the first team after Adi Hutter resigned.

SLAVISA JOKANOVIC, who led Watford to the Premier League last season, was appointed coach of Maccabi Tel Aviv, replacing Pako Ayesteran who took the Israeli side to the treble.

Back...Breitenreiter returns to the Bundesliga

Former Brentford boss **MARK WARBURTON** became the first Englishman to manage Scottish side Rangers.

Portuguese **BRUNO RIBEIRO** became Ludogorets' first foreign coach, replacing Georgi Dermendzhiev, who led the club to four successive Bulgarian league titles.

Finnish side VPS replaced coach Olli Huttunen with **PETRI VUORINEN** three days before the start of their Europa League campaign.

Gibraltar appointed Englishman **JEFF WOOD** as national coach, with interim boss Dave Wilson reverting to his previous role as assistant.

"This business is unfounded and strange"

Dinamo Zagreb's press release after president Zdravko Mamic (right) and his brother Zoran, who is the Croatian club's coach, are arrested on fraud charges

Appointments, sackings and loans

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina striker **CARLOS TEVEZ** left Juventus and returned home to his first club Boca Juniors, while former Porto and Marseille playmaker **LUCHO GONZALEZ** and Verona striker **JAVIER SAVIOLA** joined River Plate.

Home...Tevez rejoined first club Boca Juniors

Ex-Cruzeiro boss **MARCELO OLIVEIRA** took charge of Brazilian rivals Palmeiras.

ASIA

Senegal striker **DEMBA BA** joined Shanghai Shenhua from Turkish Super Lig side Besiktas for a Chinese Super League record of £11 million.

DAN PETRESCU quit as coach of Romanian side Targu Mures after one game to join Chinese side Jiangsu Sainty.

NICOLAS ANELKA was named player-coach of Indian Super League team Mumbai City, while Brazilian World Cup winner **ROBERTO CARLOS** took charge of Delhi Dynamos.

Bosnian **DZEMAL HADZIABDIC** became Iraq's third national coach this year, while **SAMVEL BABAYAN** was named boss of Uzbekistan.

Algerian **DJAMEL BELMADI** took over from Michael Laudrup as coach of Qatari champions Lekhwiya.

At 33, **SCOTT MILLER** became the youngest coach in A-League history when appointed boss of Newcastle Jets.

OUT

EUROPE

Despite leading the club to Premier League safety, Leicester City sacked **NIGEL PEARSON** for a second time in his managerial career as his relationship with the board was "no longer viable".

SOUTH AMERICA

DORIVA quit Vasco da Gama after they failed to win any of their first eight games.

CONCACAF

Former world player of the year **RONALDINHO** terminated his contract with Mexican club Queretaro.

AFRICA

Belgian **GEORGE LEEKENS** quit as coach of Tunisia over unpaid bonuses, two weeks after overseeing an 8-1 thrashing of Djibouti in their opening African Nations Cup qualifier.

Retiring...Kennedy has called time on his career

Thanks...Pearson saved Leicester but was sacked

Tanzania dismissed **MART NOOIJ** following a 3-0 home defeat by Uganda in the African Nations Championship qualifying competition.

ASIA

Melbourne City striker **JOSH KENNEDY**, who scored 17 times in 36 games for Australia – including the goal that took the Socceroos to the 2014 World Cup with a 1-0 win over Iraq – announced his retirement at the age of 32 after a string of injuries.

Chinese Super League side **HANGZHOU GREENTOWN** terminated the contract of 60-year-old Frenchman Philippe Troussier after only seven months in charge, with the club sitting third from bottom of the league.

Keshi sacked as Nigeria coach

STEPHEN KESHI was sacked as coach of Nigeria just days after the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) opened an investigation into reports that he had applied to take charge of Ivory Coast while under contract.

Keshi had claimed an unnamed agent submitted his name without his knowledge for the Ivory Coast job.

Former national coach Shaibu Amodu has taken over while the NFF negotiates with former international midfielder Sunday Oliseh.

Investigation...it is claimed that Keshi applied for the Ivory Coast job

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

England's women tread fine line from the sublime to the ridiculous

As Groucho Marx might have said, I've heard of patriotism but this is ridiculous. The day after England's women had beaten their German equivalents in the third-place World Cup play-off, a daily paper correspondent began his report: "A quarter of a century of hurt consigned to the rubbish bin. Revenge for Italia 90, an historic first win over Germany in a World Cup finals since 1966, and the journey from losers to legends."

The world bathos springs irresistibly to remind. If comparisons are odious, then this one is surely ludicrous. It might be added that, worthy though this victory was, it happened in a third-place match and not in the Final. But should it be bathos or pathos? Has English football, as played by male teams, sunk so low that consolation has to be obtained from the women's game? The mind boggles.

There were those who compared and contrasted this victory with the mediocre showing of the under-21 (male) team in the European finals in the Czech Republic. Yet how calamitous, in retrospect, was this? Largely ignored was the fact that in a subsequent round, the Portugal team that had beaten England 1-0 put five goals past Germany later on.

And it is worth pointing out that the bright Italy team which humbled England in their third match didn't include a single player capped at senior level.

It was expected that, having missed the first two games through injury, Everton's centre-back John Stones would give stability to the defence on his return, but he was poor against the Italians.

There is a new tactical broom at the FA who wants to impose the same tactics on every England team at all levels. An orthodoxy reminiscent of the dire days of the disastrous Charles Hughes, with his warmed up, remote theories based on those long obsolete of Wing Commander Charles Reep. I don't think the new orthodoxy goes nearly as far, but it still seems dubious.

> "There is a new broom at the FA who wants to impose the same tactics on every England team at all levels"

We are hearing the siren song of Greg Dyke, chairman of the FA, with his dreams of England winning the 2022 World Cup. Dream on.

For the moment, celebrations of the England women's feats continue.

There was even that element of pathos among the bathos; of that desperately unlucky own goal against Japan.

Celebrate...England's women after beating Germany in the third-place play-off

Warburton is worth watching

Arguably the most interesting managerial appointment of the summer has been that of Mark Warburton at Rangers. As long ago as February we learned that, despite the minor miracles he had achieved with Brentford, he would be leaving at the end of the season. Which in the event concluded with the anticlimax of double defeat in the play-offs by Middlesbrough.

To the dismay of Bees' supporters, the club's wealthy owner Matthew Benham, whose fortune has been made in betting endeavours, clashed with Warburton over transfer policies.

Benham is convinced his own programme will lead to success, but the proof of the pudding will be in the eating.

Meanwhile, he has said, "every decision I take is intended to be in the best long-term interests of the club. I am single minded in my resolve that we can leave no stone unturned in our quest for sustainable Premier League football".

We shall see. It may well be that he has overturned the wrong stone. Warburton is unique in the way he has emerged from being a successful City gent via a coaching course to become such a highly effective manager. That Rangers should appoint him – that extreme rarity in their long history, an English manager – was itself remarkable.

New boss...Warburton (left) and his assistant, David Weir

And what vast rebuilding he will have to do at a club who speedily fell apart under one dubious regime after another. They now have Mike Ashley, the billionaire sports goods entrepreneur, nominally in the background but bound to call the shots just as he so controversially does at Newcastle United. Ashley has already installed one of his familiar proxies in a crucial administrative role.

Twice humiliated by modest Motherwell in last season's play-offs, Rangers still languish after all those decades of triumph in the Scottish second tier. Warburton will presumably be given enough money to buy better players. Of his own abilities there can be no doubt.

More mediocrity awaits McClaren at Newcastle

Moving south, we see Ashley in bitterly controversial charge of Newcastle United, saved by the merest whisker from relegation by the supreme efforts of Jonas Gutierrez, conquering cancer both to score and to create a goal in that last desperate victory at Gallowgate. The reward for which was immediate banishment.

The doomed, inadequate manager John Carver did not have the common decency to inform him man to man. Carver might say that he was "only obeying orders," but having been sacked himself, what had he to lose?

Now Ashley has installed Steve McClaren, who had turned down the job no fewer than four times: twice recently and twice in the recent past. His arrival could scarcely have been more muted and ill judged. No press were invited to his opening press conference with the strange exception of the *Daily Mirror*, though what they have to gain by this ill-advised breaking of ranks is hard to imagine.

In charge...McClaren

That McClaren should accede on his appointment – a matter of supreme indifference to the disaffected fans – was surprising. His own recent defenestration at Derby County was hardly a happy portent and thanks to Ashley's perversity he has emphatically got off on the wrong foot so far as the media are concerned.

The fans, meanwhile, clearly resign themselves to more ostracism and more mediocrity.

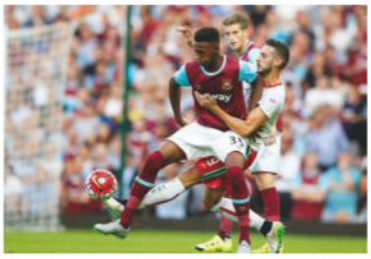
To borrow a phrase from Wordsworth: Milburn, thou shouldst be living at this hour!

Hammers upgrade with new man Bilic

Slaven Bilic had every right to sit in the stand at Upton Park for West Ham United's easy canter against Lusitans of Andorra, who were predictably brushed aside by a Hammers team full of youngsters.

Why Xavi Roura, the Lusitans manager, should have been up in arms over Bilic preferring the stand to the bench was mysterious. A good many managers actually prefer to watch their teams from on high.

Odd that Bilic's appointment should have been questioned on the grounds that he had never coached in England before. Nor had Arsene Wenger or Jose Mourinho. Five years as Croatia coach seems a pretty good calling card.



Youth...West Ham's 16-year-old Reece Oxford

Who can follow the volatile Pearson?

Leicester City have got rid of Nigel Pearson and may well live to regret it. In this case to turn an adage upside down, the sins of the sons have been visited on the fathers. Pearson's son having been one of three young Leicester players who took part in a recklessly filmed orgy while the club was touring in Thailand – the country of the club's owners.

It emerges the volatile Pearson senior was very nearly sacked before after putting his hands round the throat – playfully? – of Crystal Palace player James McArthur near the touchline during a match, having previously been heavily fined for telling an aggressive fan to eff off and die.

What cannot be contested is that he spectacularly turned Leicester's fortunes around in their last nine matches after it had seemed relegation was inevitable. It is also true that Pearson has had his troubles with the press, rebuked by the leading Midlands journalist Pat Murphy for his treatment of a local reporter.

Still, Pearson's achievement last season was substantial. Follow that? Even if one writer described him as a bully who got his deserts.

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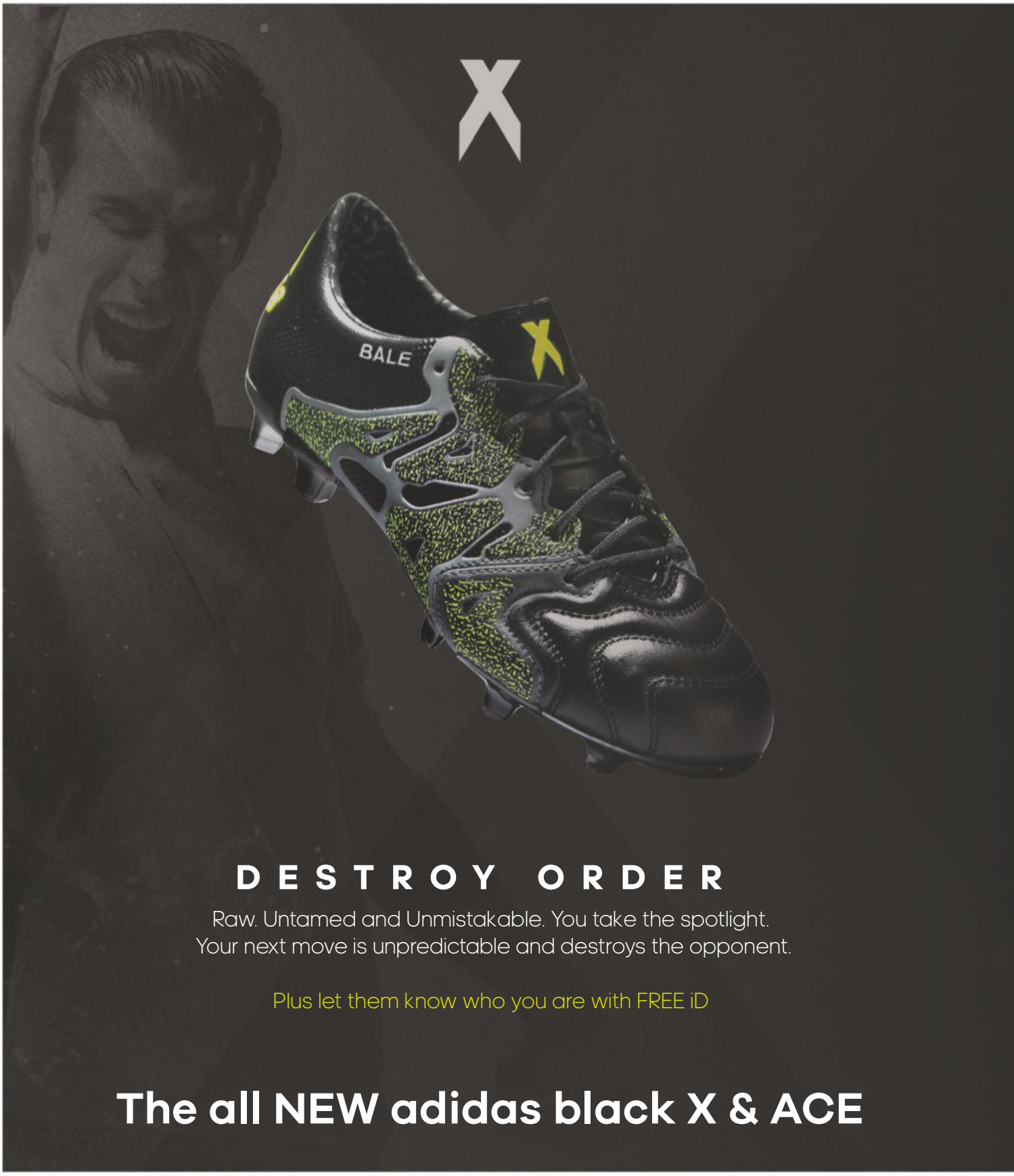

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Tim Vickery reports from Chile

COPA AMERICA

It's Chile...after 99 years

The hosts triumph in Copa for the first time

"Goodbye, moral victories," was a headline in Chile's *La Tercera* newspaper the day after the national team won its first senior title. Meanwhile, the *Ultimas Noticias* paper declared that "the glory took 99 years to arrive, but the wait was worthwhile".

For the neutral, Chile's penalty shoot-out win in the Copa America Final after a disappointing goalless draw with Argentina may have seemed a relatively tame way to win the trophy.

But that would be a misunderstanding of the context.

Nearly 99 years to the day since Chile kicked off the very first Copa America

Copa kings...Chile celebrate winning the Final on penalties

Copa America
Round-by-round

Group A

Chile got the tournament under way with a wobbly 2-0 win over Ecuador, in Santiago, both second-half goals coming at times when the Ecuadorians were looking the better side.

The hosts were back to their best in their next game, against Mexico, and their high-tempo football was a delight to watch. But the deficiencies of the defence were cruelly exposed in a 3-3 draw that was overshadowed by the next day's events.

Returning to the team's training camp, Arturo Vidal crashed his Ferrari with alcohol in his system but Sampaoli insisted he remain part of the squad. Already assured of a quarter-final place, Chile then turned on the style to beat Bolivia 5-0 in their final group game.

Despite that humbling, Bolivia had also already qualified before their last match. They began with a tame 0-0 draw with Mexico and then took advantage of atrocious Ecuadorian defending to race into a 3-0 lead. Ecuador came roaring back, scoring twice, missing a penalty and laying siege to the Bolivian goal. They could not find an equaliser and a closing 2-1 win over Mexico was not enough to squeeze them into the last eight.

Spot on...Bolivia's Marcelo Moreno scores against Ecuador

Group B

With an embarrassment of attacking riches and their stars seemingly fitter than at the World Cup, Argentina raced into a two-goal lead against Paraguay in their opening game.

Paraguay went chasing the game, giving Argentina numerous chances to kill things off. But as the chances went begging, and with coach Gerardo Martino under fire for his substitutions, Paraguay scored twice late on to secure a 2-2 draw.

Doubts about Argentina's ability to last 90 minutes were not entirely cleared up, even though they won their next two games without conceding.

With Sergio Aguero looking especially sharp, they beat Uruguay 1-0, but looked ragged towards the end, as they did in the 1-0 victory over Jamaica – in which Lionel Messi won his 100th cap.

Paraguay came second, despite a slim 1-0 win over Jamaica and a grim, 1-1 draw with a Uruguay side making typically solid progress and, who, like everyone else, beat Jamaica 1-0.

Taking aim...Robinho against Venezuela

Group C

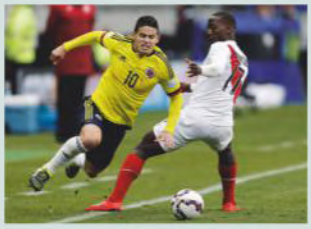
The tightest of the three groups went into the last round of games with all four sides level on points and capable of finishing either top or bottom.

Up until then it was a week dominated by Brazil's captain, Neymar, who in stoppage time of the opening 2-1 victory over Peru capped a fine individual display with a pass of almost absurd vision to set up the winner for Douglas Costa. A shaky team performance seemed to highlight just how dependent Brazil were on their number 10 – who was marked out of the next game by a superb defensive midfield performance from Colombia's Carlos Sanchez. This gave Colombia the platform to win a scrappy game 1-0 – and such was Neymar's frustration he was sent off after the final whistle. He made matters worse by abusing the referee and was banned for four games, removing him from the tournament.

Willian stepped up to play the lead role in a 2-1 win over Venezuela that put Brazil into the knockout stage.

Despite their victory over Brazil, Colombia had a disappointing group programme. Abel Aguilar's injury absence was keenly felt as the midfield lacked his ability to link things together. Radamel Falcao did not look sharp, and the need to play another striker alongside him put more pressure on the central midfield pairing of Sanchez and Edwin Valencia, who are more equipped to mark than create. No coincidence, then, that in the two games in which Colombia had to take the initiative they failed to score, losing 1-0 to Venezuela and drawing 0-0 with Peru.

Colombia went through as one of the best third-place teams, while Peru finished second by virtue of having scored more goals, thanks to a 1-0 win over Venezuela who were reduced to 10 men in the first half.



Fouled...Colombia's James Rodriguez (left)

game, the title was theirs at long last. *La Tercera* caught the mood on its front page, stating: "'*La Roja*' threw off its chronic fatalism. The tactical scheme of [coach Jorge] Sampaoli neutralised and minimised Messi's Argentina." Inside, sports editor Jose Miguelez apportioned the credit, writing: "Sampaoli. It was Sampaoli. There was also a bit of luck, finally on Chile's side after the roulette wheel has so many times been an enemy. But this title is a direct consequence of his work. The coach won the Final."

In the cold light of a midwinter Chilean morning, it is possible to trace the process back a little further, to 2007. That was when Chile revealed an excellent crop of youngsters – with Alexis Sanchez, Arturo Vidal, Gary Medel and Mauricio Isla all part of the side that came third in that year's Under-20 World Cup. This, in turn, meant there would be some promising raw material for the new senior coach to work with. His name was Marcelo Bielsa, and

> "The impossible happened. We won the Copa and a little water fell on Santiago"
>
> **Chilean newspaper *La Quarta* celebrates the end of a the country's dry spell on two fronts**

Champion...Sanchez lifts the trophy

his appointment was fundamental to Chile's change in fortunes.

Chilean football, as former great Elias Figueroa told *World Soccer* in a special feature on the country over 11 years ago, had always suffered from an identity crisis – until Bielsa came along. He had previously struggled to have his methods accepted when in charge of his native Argentina, but with Chile he had a blank canvas. It was a situation he relished and his ideas were imposed and unopposed. Chile would play high-tempo, pressing football in the opposition's half of the field, looking to dominate the game wherever it was played and whoever it was against.

The young Chileans took to the idea with great enthusiasm and began to take the field with no inferiority crisis. The emphasis on wing play, with the ceaseless quest to set up two-against-one situations down the flanks, chimed well with the type of player that Chilean football produces: quick, elusive wingers.

And it was more than just Chilean football that benefited; Chilean society also embraced the new national team, with their bold approach striking a chord with a traditionally staid public that was

Hard yards...Ezequiel Lavezzi tries to keep an Argentina attack moving in the Final

growing in confidence after years of living under a dictatorship.

Bielsa resigned early in 2011 and, after a brief interlude under Claudio Borghi, at the end of the following year Chile turned to Sampaoli, a self-confessed Bielsa disciple. But while the pupil is perhaps a little more flexible than the master, the basic idea stays the same – even if its interpretations can vary.

Before the opening game of the 2015 Copa, Sampaoli claimed to have 18 different ideas in his head. In the event, he used six of them, tinkering with his team in every match, even if not all were impressed. After the second game, a 3-3 draw with Mexico, Alvaro Poblete wrote in *La Tercera*: "Sampaoli tries to come across as an illuminated man of football, and all Chile suffers.

"He thinks he is Albert Einstein or Christopher Columbus, but he is just a ▸

Under fire...Sampaoli was panned after the draw with Mexico

Quarter-finals

CHILE 1 URUGUAY 0

Despite pressing remorselessly against an opponent steeped in dogged defence, and enjoying 80 per cent possession, Chile had problems turning their domination into clear chances in Santiago – even after Uruguay went down to 10 men just after the hour.

Perhaps not in the best frame of mind after his father had been involved in a traffic accident the day before in which a motorcyclist had died, Uruguay centre-forward Edinson Cavani reacted with a slap after Gonzalo Jara pressed a finger against his backside. Already on a yellow, Cavani was sent off, while Jara was later handed a three-match ban.

Chile badly needed physical presence in the penalty area, which sub Mauricio Pinilla was to provide. With 10 minutes left, Pinilla and Arturo Vidal attacked a cross, forcing goalkeeper Fernando Muslera to punch clear to the edge of the area. Showing admirable calm, Jorge Valdivia rolled the ball square for Mauricio Isla to fire home.

There was no way back for Uruguay, especially when left-back Jorge Fucile was harshly sent off – which led to Uruguayan players pushing and jostling a linesman. Already without Luis Suarez and now Cavani for the start of the World Cup qualifiers, Uruguay could yet face further sanctions.

PERU 3 BOLIVIA 1

Bolivia switched to three centre-backs in Temuco, but they could have fielded 10 and still been unable to stop the supply to Peru striker Paolo Guerrero.

The top goalscorer of the last Copa rose above the defence to head Peru into the lead after 19 minutes. Three

Wrestling match...Bolivia v Peru

minutes later, he all but made the game safe as Peru broke quickly and midfielder Cristian Cueva curled a wonderful pass behind the defence for Guerrero to stroke home.

Bolivia had done little in the competition, owing their qualification to a mad few minutes of defending by Ecuador in the group phase. But now, deep in trouble, they produced their best performance, with the set-pieces of Martin Smedberg-Dalence – a 31-year-old Swedish-born midfielder who coach Mauricio Soria introduced to the side – impressing. However, any chance of a comeback ended when Danny Bejerano's suicidal ball across the face of his own back line allowed Guerrero to run through and complete his hat-trick. A penalty by Marcelo Martins Moreno was mere consolation.

ARGENTINA 0 COLOMBIA 0
(Argentina win 5-4 on penalties)
The heavyweight clash in Vina del Mar confirmed much about these two sides so far in the competition, as Argentina again failed to turn domination into goals and Colombia were unable to control midfield.

Colombia coach Jose Pekerman left captain Radamel Falcao on the bench and still went with two strikers. But with specialist man-marker Carlos Sanchez suspended, his side were being overrun in midfield. Lionel Messi, Angel Di Maria Sergio Aguero and Javier Pastore had the freedom of the park.

After 23 minutes, Pekerman had seen enough and replaced a striker with an extra midfielder, but it made little difference as Argentina still did everything but score. David Ospina produced an extraordinary double save to deny Aguero and then Messi.

The second half was a little more even there but in a late Argentinian onslaught Ever Banega clipped the bar and a Nicolas Otamendi volley hit the far post and rolled along the line before substitute Carlos Tevez had a shot cleared off the line.

Four years ago Tevez's miss in the

Stopped...Tevez can't get through

Copa quarter-final shoot-out against Uruguay saw Argentina eliminated. He did not figure in Argentina's first six penalty takers this time, but when Jeison Murillo, so impressive at centre-back for Colombia, sent his penalty high into the night, Tevez finally stepped up to fire home and achieve a little bit of redemption.

PARAGUAY 1 BRAZIL 1
(Paraguay win 4-3 on penalties)
Paraguay knocked Brazil out of the Copa on penalties in the quarter-finals four years ago, but that looked an unlikely outcome this time when Brazil took an early lead with a wonderfully constructed goal, Robinho sweeping home a cross from Dani Alves.

Brazil sat back and waited for the chance to kill off the game on the counter-attack. But Paraguay coach Ramon Diaz told his defence to sit deep and push up aggressively and the side started to exert a stranglehold. Then, just as he had for Paris Saint-Germain against Chelsea in the Champions League, Thiago Silva conceded a needless penalty by jumping with his arm above his head and Derlis Gonzalez equalised from the spot.

The game went to penalties. Brazil's Everton Ribeiro and Douglas Costa missed before Gonzalez shot high and true to send Paraguay into the semi-finals again.

No escape...Uruguay's Cristian Rodriguez is sandwiched by two Paraguayan defenders

coach." But it was the coach who had the last laugh.

He had prepared for the tournament in the knowledge that playing at home would change things. Opponents would be less likely to commit players forward, meaning Chile could not be as direct as usual and would have to have more patience in their possession – hence the fact that playmaker Jorge Valdivia, who in the World Cup only started against Australia, was a fixture throughout the competition.

Sampaoli had also thought deeply on how to beat the best. Under Bielsa, Chile had steamed forward and been picked off by the Brazilian counter-attack. Sampaoli had apparently gone into the tournament expecting to meet Brazil in the Final and had taken precautions, using a friendly against Dunga's side at the end of March as a laboratory.

With the full-backs choosing their moment to push forward, and Charles Aranguiz working overtime as part of a midfield block, Sampaoli satisfied himself that he could slow down the Brazilian counter – and the same formula worked well for the Final against Argentina. Without renouncing their attacking ideals, Chile took more precautions, and concentrated on isolating Lionel Messi from his team-mates. It could have gone wrong, as Messi managed to slip away in the last minute of normal time and set up a counter which Gonzalo Higuain, straining to arrive, just failed to steer inside the far post. On such narrow margins are historic triumphs constructed.

And so Chile join Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay and Peru among South America's lesser winners of the world's

Not to be...Messi walks past the trophy

> "Sampaoli thinks he is Albert Einstein or Christopher Columbus but he is just a coach"
>
> *La Tercera's* Alvaro Poblete

Flying the flag...Chile fans roar their team on in the Final

Semi-finals

CHILE 2 PERU 1

For the first 20 minutes, there looked to be a real chance of a shock result. Peru took the game to Chile, with winger Andre Carrillo and Paolo Guerrero proving a handful for a Chile defence lacking the suspended Gonzalo Jara. His replacement Jorge Rojas seemed overawed and there was a nervous hush around Santiago's National stadium.

But, and not for the first time in his international career, Peru centre-back Carlos Zambrano lost his head. He had already been involved in a couple of spats, and was on a yellow, when he received a straight red card for an ugly, unnecessary high footed stamp on Charles Aranguiz.

It was now far easier for Chile, who took the lead shortly before half time, when a cross-cum-shot from Alexis Sanchez came back off the far post and was bundled home by Eduardo Vargas, who should have been given offside.

A goal and a man up, Chile looked set for a routine win. But their complacency was shattered on the hour. Guerrero sent Luis Advincula away, and with his excellent cross heading towards Carrillo, Gary Medel's attempt to intercept diverted the ball past his own keeper.

Home nerves were soon settled, though, when Vargas lef fly from 25 metres with a shot that caught keeper Pedro Gallese unawares, and he won the game for Chile with his 22nd goal at international level.

Peru ended up with some consolation for a promising campaign. They deservedly beat Paraguay 2-0 to claim third place.

Won it...Sanchez's penalty finds the net

ARGENTINA 6 PARAGUAY 1

All those goals that Argentina had been threatening to score finally appeared in Concepcion and they were 2-0 up early on. Marcos Rojo forced home the first after a free kick, and Javier Pastore soon added a second after Lionel Messi dropped deep as a decoy and threaded the ball between the lines for Pastore to exploit.

But Paraguay kept pressing, and were rewarded soon before half-time when aggressive marking in the Argentina half resulted in a loose ball being smashed home by Lucas Barrios.

Argentina came out after the break determined not to be caught twice in the same trap as in the group game, and this time it took them just seven minutes to kill things off. Messi and Javier Mascherano combined to send Pastore away and he sent in Angel Di Maria to score. Then Paraguay were caught with too many men upfield, Messi took out the defence and Pastore's cross flicked off the keeper and was volleyed home by Di Maria.

There was time for two more, in which Argentina demonstrated their strength up front. First Aguero burst between the centre-backs and glanced Di Maria's cross into the far corner. Then he was replaced by Gonzalo Higuain, who immediately made his mark, rounding off yet another Messi-inspired move.

Final

CHILE 0 ARGENTINA 0

(Chile won 4-1 on penalties)

Chile finally have something to put in their trophy cabinet. After 99 years and 43 previous versions of the Copa America they became the eighth nation to win the competition – even if a potentially wonderful final did not come close to living up to expectations.

But, as Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said afterwards: "The two sides did not have the opportunity to show their football.

"We cancelled each other out. Argentina didn't shine, Chile didn't shine. Messi was controlled, Aguero as well. But then so were Jorge Valdivia and Alexis Sanchez of Chile."

Argentina had shown signs during the tournament of end-of-season tiredness and Martino complained after the group game against Uruguay that his men seemed unable to sustain their rhythm for the full 90 minutes. But in the Final, despite coming off the back of a 6-1 semi-final thrashing of Paraguay, his team never really established their rhythm.

It must have seemed like Groundhog Day for Argentina, because so many memories of last year's World Cup campaign came flooding back: Angel Di Maria, after a bright start, pulling up injured early on; Messi seemingly short of gas and restricting himself to spurts; the vital chance that fell to Gonzalo Higuain, this time in the last minute of normal time, when he arrived fractionally late at the far post and was unable to steer the ball home.

The stalemate also resulted from the fact Chile worked so hard to defend collectively. Jorge Sampaoli, for the sixth time in six games, changed his starting line-up, this time using a back three of Francisco Silva, Marcelo Diaz and Gary Medel – all converted midfielders. All were booked in a first half when the momentum seemed to be with Argentina. Chile keeper Claudio Bravo produced a reflex save to block a close range Aguero header then stood up well to stop a shot from Ezequiel Lavezzi, who had replaced Di Maria.

But Chile wrested the initiative after the break, closing down Argentina in midfield, interrupting the circuit between Messi and Javier Pastore which had proved so effective during the competition. The lung power and unsung versatility of Charles Aranguiz, the motor of the Chile midfield, made him a strong contender for man of the match.

Chile looked fresher in extra time, and carried that spirit into the shoot out. The key moment was the third penalty. Mati Fernandez and Lionel Messi had both scored when Arturo Vidal stepped up for Chile. And then the hapless Higuain fired over the bar, and Chile were in front. Fittingly, Aranguiz made no mistake and when Bravo saved from Ever Banega, Chile had two chances to seal the win.

In the end they only needed the one. Alexis Sanchez went for the little dink down the middle, Sergio Romero was committed to the dive and the Chilean party could begin.

WORLD CUP PROSPECTS

After a year of friendlies, the Copa America kicked off a new cycle of competitive matches in South America. Indeed, many of the coaches, new in their jobs and with little preparation time, made no secret that the priority in the tournament was preparing a team for the 2018 World Cup qualifiers, which get under way in October. From that point of view, then, how did the teams emerge from the Copa?

ARGENTINA
Amid the trauma of yet another Final defeat, Gerardo Martino pointed out that "the positive side is that we've found our style". However, it is a style that would surely work better with more defensive pace, allowing the back line to play higher and the team to stay more compact. Martino took a very experienced squad to the Copa; presumably new players can be filtered into the process in next year's Centenary Copa and in the Olympics.

BOLIVIA
Making it out of the group, though almost entirely dependent on a dreadful 45 minutes' defending by Ecuador, was a big boost, and Mauricio Soria's team gave a good account of themselves in the 3-1 quarter-final defeat by Peru. Swedish born Martin Smedberg-Dalence looks a find, and if there may be some heavy defeats ahead, there are legitimate hopes the new bolder style might help the team do better away from the extreme altitude of La Paz.

BRAZIL
Ten consecutive friendly wins under Dunga were soon shown up to count for little once the competitive action started. True, a few important players were absent through injury, but Brazil go into the qualifiers with confidence undermined and Neymar suspended for the first two games – and every match in the qualifiers that they fail to win sets off another mini crisis. Interesting times ahead – might they even lead to a change of direction?

CHILE
Which way from here? The last Copa hosts to win the trophy, Colombia in 2001, suffered in the qualification campaign. Chile should gain confidence from finally claiming a title, but there is a natural tendency to ease off after the triumph, which ever-intense coach Jorge Sampaoli will need to guard against. He may also have to do without playmaker Jorge Valdivia, who is off to play in the UAE. But there is a big question looming on the horizon: how are Chile going to replace their golden generation?

oldest continental competition, and for the seventh time in 44 versions, the Copa America eluded one of the traditional big three.

Record winners Uruguay were always unlikely to make an especially convincing defence of the title they won in Argentina four years ago, as they were without Luis Suarez and primarily concerned with rebuilding the team. Even so, the lack of ambition in their play sparked a debate back home, with questions being asked whether coach Oscar Tabarez has become addicted to fighting inside a bunker.

There is debate, too, in Brazil, after a hugely disappointing campaign. A group of notables has been summoned to discuss the underperformance of Brazilian football – a move which would have made much more sense a year ago, when the national team had months of friendlies ahead of them. On the eve of World Cup qualification – and with Dunga, seemingly obsessed with the counter-attack, ratified as coach – it is difficult to see where change will come from.

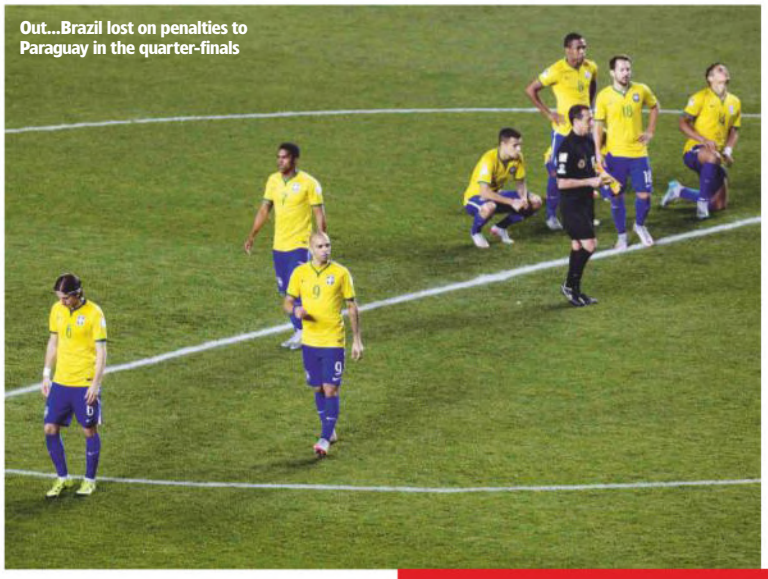
Argentina limped away after losing their third Final in the last four tournaments: two of them on penalty shoot-outs. Javier Mascherano, present in all of those Finals, plus that of the 2014 World Cup, spoke of feeling cursed. The wait for a senior title is now 22 years and counting, but there might be another chance in June 2016, with the proposed Centenary Copa in the United States.

There are two caveats here, though. One is that a third consecutive end-of-season international tournament is a strain too much on the players and the key men will surely be rested for the World Cup qualifiers. The other is that there is no guarantee that the competition will go ahead, since allegations over the TV rights are at the epicentre of the FIFA scandal.

CONMEBOL appears to be an organisation under siege. President Juan Angel Napout did at last make an appearance at the Final to hand over the trophy, but he, and many national association leaders spent most of their time at home, dealing with the scandal and its fallout. Investigations into FAs are being carried out all over the continent. During the tournament, a meeting in Brazil of South American government prosecutors made a formal request to the USA authorities to pass on the evidence unearthed by the FBI.

In less fraught days, CONMEBOL had awarded the 2015 Copa to Chile, in March 2012, after a deal was reached with Brazil, the original hosts, to switch the order so that they will now host 2019.

With just three years to prepare, Chile made a modest investment in stadiums, with nine being used in eight different cities, making this far more of a nationwide competition that the five previous Copas staged in Chile, and the 1962 World


Out...Brazil lost on penalties to Paraguay in the quarter-finals

VIP treatment... Chile are greeted by president Bachelet at the national palace

"The two sides did not have the opportunity to show their football. We cancelled each other out"
Argentina coach Gerardo Martino reflects on a poor Final

Cup. There were no organisational hitches, and an editorial in *La Tercera* went as far as to declare that the Copa was "organised in an impeccable manner, and with notable success in all the facets which nowadays pertain to these types of sporting events".

Local interest was high and the point should be made that, while the stadiums outside Santiago are relatively small, most games were well attended, which is especially impressive as many of the matches took place in bitter evening cold.

The exception was Antofagasta in the north, which felt hard done by with its games – just two, both involving Jamaica – and stadium occupation there was just 34.3 per cent, well below the other venues.

Part of the success was down to the number of travelling fans, a relatively new development for the Copa, reflecting the fact that the continent has become wealthier. The Colombian hordes, first witnessed in Argentina four years ago, were back, and if they did not have too much to celebrate, they could at least roar their team to its first victory over Brazil since James Rodriguez was precisely one day old.

Also rans...Jamaica (in yellow) lost each group match 1-0

While visiting supporters were rewarded with some stunning scenery, they also encountered an environmental problem. In Santiago and some of the other cities, especially Temuco, the quality of the air was very poor. Santiago sits in a valley, and in winter, when wood fires are burning, if there is little wind and no rain the pollution hangs in smog clouds above the city. The first genuine emergency since 1999 was declared, and there were lots of so-called "pre-emergencies", with restrictions placed on car usage.

In a situation exacerbated by the driest June in decades, many experienced breathing problems.

On the Saturday that Chile won the trophy, there was a victory procession to La Moneda palace, where the players were greeted by president Michelle Bachelet. The next day the dry spell came to an end.

"The impossible happened," trumpeted *La Quarta*. "We won the Copa, and a little water fell on Santiago." Drizzle, yes, but it did not rain on Chile's parade. WS

COLOMBIA
This was the tournament when they aimed to ratify what they had done in the World Cup, and from that view they were a massive disappointment. Their attack did not shine and, oddly for a team coached by Jose Pekerman, there was very little midfield elaboration. Injured Abel Aguilar was missed and there is an urgent need to find all-round midfielders. At least the quest for a new centre-back was a success and Jeison Murillo had a fine tournament.

ECUADOR
New coach Gustavo Quinteros was not devastated by first-round elimination. His team showed its considerable firepower, but were undermined by what he referred to as "gross errors" at the back. Tightening up the defence will be a priority. A possible problem is the spat between Antonio Valencia (who missed the tournament through injury) and local FA boss Luis Chiriboga. which shows the internal atmosphere is far from ideal.

PARAGUAY
Exceeded all expectations by knocking out Brazil in the quarter-finals. A mixed bag for new coach Ramon Diaz, who, with little preparation time or local knowledge, understandably went with an experienced core of players, many of whom will have to be replaced in the course of the qualification campaign. They will go into the Russia 2018 campaign as an unknown quantity.

PERU
Finishing third in the previous Copa ended up doing nothing for their dream of returning to the World Cup for the first time since 1982. Will it be any different this time? While their big-name strikers are all the other side of 30, a younger group of players – Pedro Gallese in goal, Luis Advincula at right-back, attacking midfielder Christian Cueva, striker Yordy Reyna – are coming through nicely. Their disastrous away record in recent years does, however, remain a big problem.

URUGUAY
Suffered their first defeats since the World Cup, though both times they fought hard before going down 1-0. But has coach Oscar Tabarez become too obsessed with fighting from a bunker? Do they have the players for a more expansive game? This debate is going on in Uruguay, who will still be without Luis Suarez for the first four qualifying rounds. Prepare for another battle to claim the play-off position.

VENEZUELA
Coming fourth in the previous Copa raised hopes they might be ready to qualify for their first World Cup. They were not realised in 2014, and it is not clear how they can be in Russia, either. New coach Noel Sanvicente managed to fashion a side with a fair degree of defensive solidity, but at the expense of attacking fluidity. They are competitive, but look to be short of the quality needed to grab a 2018 place.

Sampaoli's triumph

Jonathan Wilson analyses how hosts Chile came out on top at the Copa America, thanks to their Argentinian coach

Action man...Chile midfielder Valdivia (no10) in the thick of it against Uruguay

Where next for Jorge Sampaoli? Although he has a contract to stay on as Chile coach until the 2018 World Cup, he hinted after the Copa America Final that he may look to move on.

And he could hardy be blamed for doing so, because what he has achieved with Chile is remarkable.

From a financial point of view, Sampaoli is unlikely to ever be in a better negotiating position. But, from an emotional point of view, Chile's 99-year wait for a trophy with a win over his own native country, in a stadium where he achieved such success with Universidad de Chile, is unlikely to be topped. For, more than anything, Chile's triumph was Sampaoli's triumph.

It's true that the foundations of this triumph were laid by Marcelo Bielsa, who was coach between 2007 and 2011, but after Claudio Borghi's disappointing reign, there was still plenty of work to be done.

Sampaoli, to a degree because of a lack of choice, kept the existing squad together and generated a spirit that was as near as it is possible to get in a national side to a club environment.

The basics of the way Chile played were no great surprise. They pressed hard and high, using Marcelo Diaz at the back of midfield to drop between the centre-backs and switch from a back four to a back three and release the full-backs. Arturo Vidal and Charles Aranguiz both worked exceptionally hard in midfield, their tactical intelligence vital to a system that switched between 4-3-3 and 3-4-1-2. At the front, the shape replicated the back with Jorge Valdivia, so often such a frustrating player, operating behind a strike pairing of Alexis Sanchez and Eduardo Vargas, who would often split to allow him to advance between them. The result was a highly fluid style that produced by some way the most attractive football of the competition.

What was most impressive was how Chile – with the exception of a nervy semi-final against Peru – kept on correcting flaws. In the opening game, a slightly anxious 2-0 win over Ecuador, for instance, Jefferson Montero again and again exploited the space behind Mauricio Isla, while Chile seemed heavily focused on attacking down their right. That bias

Final...Sampaoli urges his team on against Argentina

> Sampaoli spent the days before the Final watching videos of Messi, while his players used a PlayStation4 to try to find a solution. Remarkably, they did

disappeared thereafter and, after another shaky game against Mexico, no other left-winger really threatened to get in behind Isla, or at least not with the consistency Montero had.

A 3-3 draw with Mexico was more worrying for two other reasons, though. Firstly, that the Mexicans dominated a far shorter Chile side in the air, twice scoring with headers, and secondly that their third goal came from an extremely simple pass over the top because the Chilean back line had pushed up when there was no pressure on the ball.

The latter issue is why few international sides play a pressing game: it requires a cohesiveness that is extremely hard to generate when players are not playing and training together every week. Sampaoli, though, presumably with further drilling on the practice pitch, ironed out the glitch.

The issue of height is rather different. Chile were the shortest team in the tournament, with an average height of 1.76m. There is not a huge amount that can be done about that, but Sampaoli was so worried about the threat that Uruguay posed from set-pieces that he strung up a tape 2m above the ground and had his players practising winning headers above that mark.

As it turned out, Chile defended extremely well against Uruguay. The goalkeeper, Claudio Bravo, was notably proactive about coming for crosses, and while Gonzalo Jara's provocation of Edinson Cavani will always leave a sour taste, that was probably their best performance of the tournament.

Against a resolute defence they stuck to their attacking principles, with Valdivia capping a superb performance by retaining his cool as a Fernando Muslera punch came to him on the edge of the box and calmly laying the ball off for Isla to score – a moment that, after the wobbles of the first two games, demonstrated the advantages of having a full-back surging forward late to join the attack.

But it was in the Final that Sampaoli really came into his own. Chile and Argentina had been the two sides with the most possession in the competition; for one or both that was clearly about to change.

Argentina had looked much more dangerous in the tournament when they had had space to attack behind the opponent, as happened in both games against Paraguay (even in their opening group game, when they suffered a tactical collapse to squander a 2-0 lead and draw 2-2 they were still creating chances at the end). Given Chile's preference for a high line, that seemed to pose a major problem and there were moments early in the match when Lionel Messi found space behind the left-back Jean Beausejour.

Messi, after a devastating performance in the semi-final, had been Sampaoli's focus. Chile's coach had reportedly spent the days before the Final watching videos of Messi while his players used a PlayStation4 to try to find a solution.

Remarkably, they did. Diaz played so deep in the Final that he was almost a third central defender. Francisco Silva came in to his right with Gary Medel swapped to the left of centre so he could push out and close Messi down, knowing he had Diaz behind him as protection. Aranguiz, on the left of the two shuttling midfielders, never let Messi get too far away from him, while Valdivia must have done more defending than in any other game in his career, forever pulling left to offer further protection. By the time Valdivia was replaced by the spikier Mati Fernandez, Messi was already a diminished, demoralised figure.

Perhaps it would not have worked with a referee less prepared to let robust challenges pass or had Angel Di Maria not pulled up with a hamstring injury, but hypotheticals can play both ways.

The fact is that Sampaoli honed Chile over the course of the tournament and devised specific plans for specific games that worked. His combative style rubs some up the wrong way, but this was Sampaoli's tournament. WS

Determined...Medel (left) stops Messi

CHILE LINE-UP V ARGENTINA, 2015 COPA FINAL

FRIENDLY

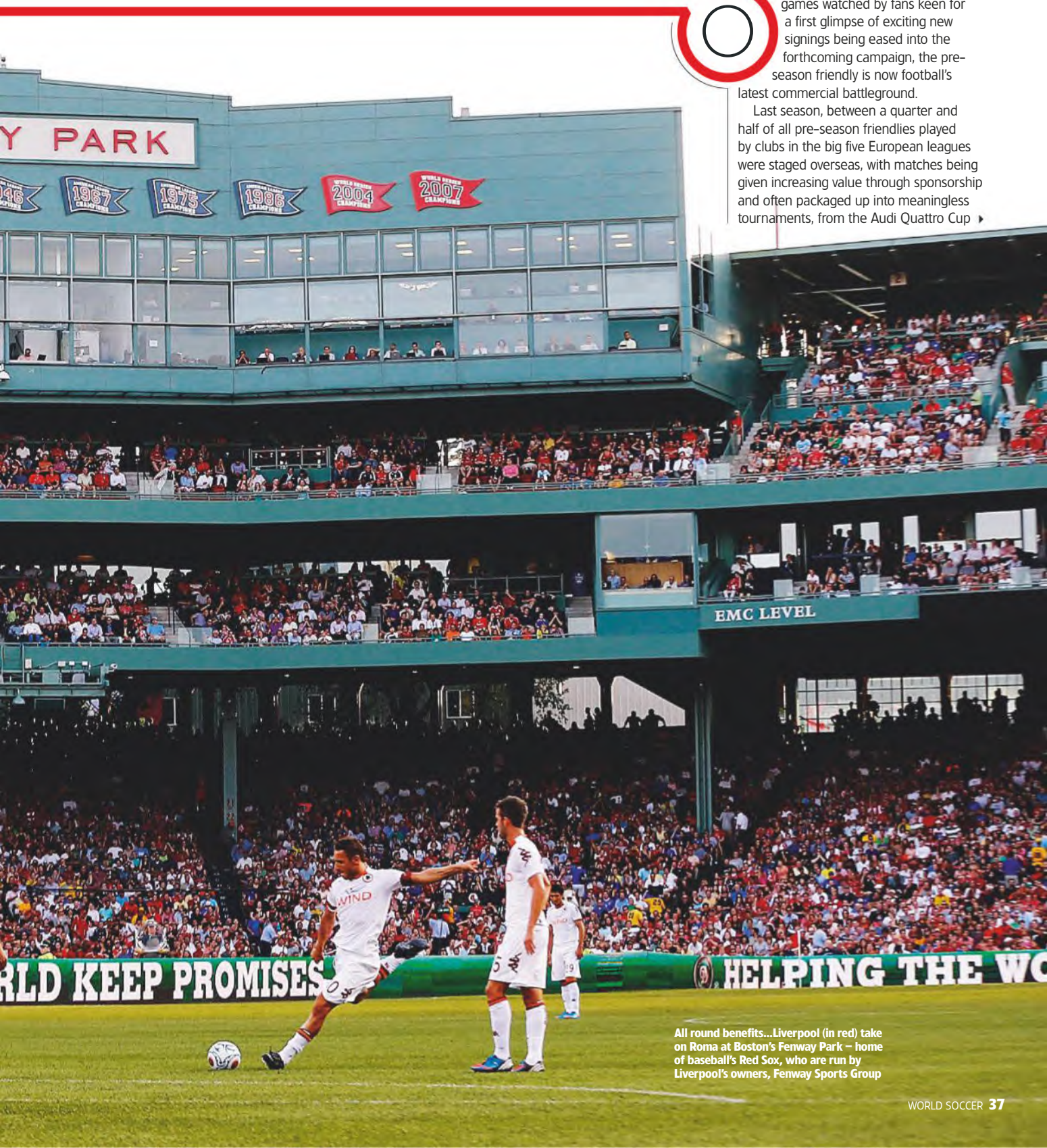
Steve Menary reports on the money to be

COMPETITION

made from pre-season games – both legally and illegally

Once a casually organised series of games watched by fans keen for a first glimpse of exciting new signings being eased into the forthcoming campaign, the pre-season friendly is now football's latest commercial battleground.

Last season, between a quarter and half of all pre-season friendlies played by clubs in the big five European leagues were staged overseas, with matches being given increasing value through sponsorship and often packaged up into meaningless tournaments, from the Audi Quattro Cup ▸



All round benefits...Liverpool (in red) take on Roma at Boston's Fenway Park – home of baseball's Red Sox, who are run by Liverpool's owners, Fenway Sports Group

to the Premier League Asia Trophy. While sponsors get another plug, broadcasters snap up cheap opportunities to show Europe's top sides – despite managers' protests at their players being dragged all around the world.

The Emirates Cup in London eased Arsene Wenger's concerns over the demands of pre-season on his Arsenal players, but he is one of the few managers to win this battle. Last summer, new Manchester United boss Louis Van Gaal warned that a pre-season tour to the United States was too demanding, yet this summer United visit the US again.

"Commercial managers have the power in pre-season," says Michael D'Arcy, a director of KAM Sports, one of the biggest licensed agents arranging club and international friendlies.

Foreign tours date back to the game's early days, but in 1993 Italy became one of the first leagues to attempt to start a pre-season abroad, with the Italian Super Cup staged in the USA. Since then, the annual season opener between the winners of Serie A and the Italian Cup has been held in Libya (in 2002), the US (2003), Qatar (2014) and China (three times between 2009 and 2012). This year's game, between Juventus and Lazio, returns to China on August 8.

In 2013, Spanish clubs started the LFP World Tour, which visited destinations as diverse as Australia, Chile and Turkey to globalise La Liga, but England's Premier League and its clubs have blazed the biggest commercial pre-season trail.

Pulling power... Manchester United and Real Madrid drew an astonishing 109,318 fans for their 2014 friendly at Michigan Stadium

Between 2005 and 2014, Premier League sides visited 41 countries in pre-season, from Malaysia and Vietnam to Liechtenstein, Nigeria and New Zealand. The big five – Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and the two Manchester clubs – played 319 pre-season friendlies, of which just 97 were at home.

Although overseas touring did ease last summer, 60 per cent of Premier League sides' pre-season games took place outside Britain between 2011-12 and 2013-14.

As an organisation, the Premier League stages the biennial Asia Trophy and four of the last six have been held in Hong Kong. As HKFA chief executive Mark Sutcliffe explains: "The gate money and TV income goes to the Premier League to pay its costs and clubs' appearance money. The HKFA gets a sanction fee to pay for our costs and match-day organisation. The stadium owner – in this case, the government – gets its levy and the local team gets an appearance fee. In addition, the Premier League gives the HKFA a good-causes grant for football development, so creating an event legacy.

"As I understand it, the event costs the Premier League money but is seen as an investment to develop the market in Asia."

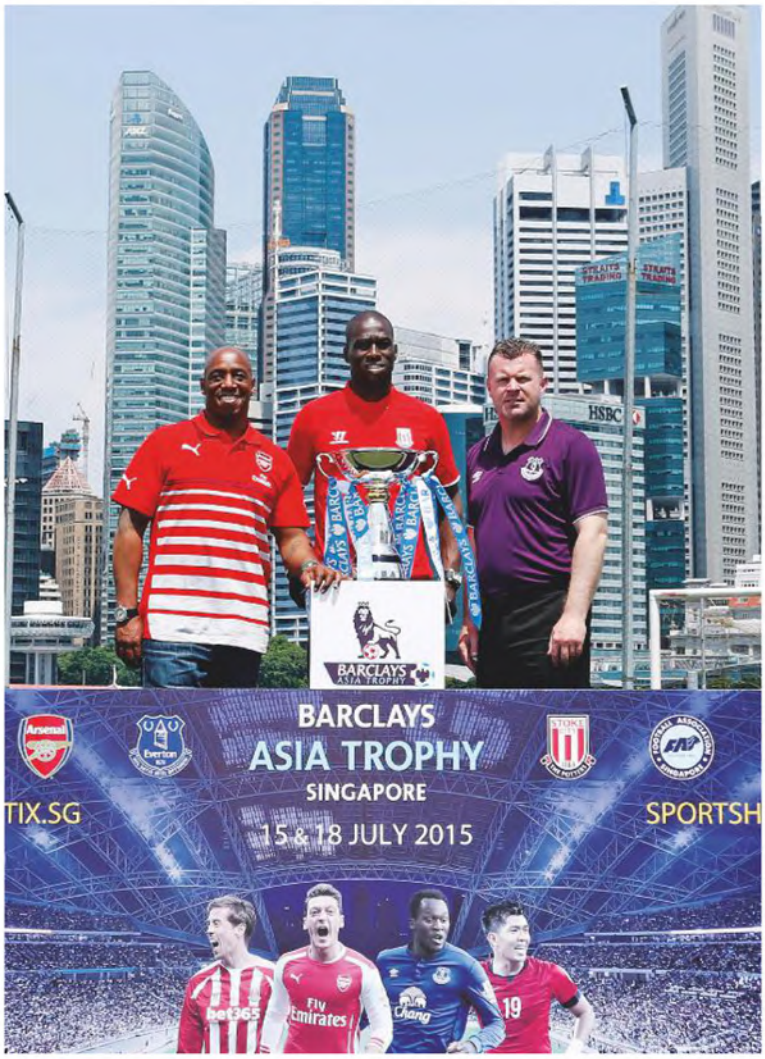
However, the Premier League denies this, claiming the event – which is being staged in Singapore this year and features Arsenal, Everton, Stoke City and a Singapore Select XI – breaks even. "Premier League money is the clubs' money," says a spokesman. "Our job is to generate revenue for them, so they would not want the Premier League running competitions that make losses."

Asia, and China in particular, is of great appeal to the Premier League and its clubs. Rowan Simmons, an expert in Chinese media and sport, says: "Even if PL clubs are not playing in China this summer, the interest is certainly there. Several have sent commercial teams here recently; many seem to be looking for buyers."

With a bumper £5.1 billion domestic TV deal agreed, pre-season is a good time to attract interest from investors in markets such as China, although the proliferation of fake replica shirts in Asia, costing as little

> "The clubs are ruthless. They are solely in it for the money, whereas the national teams do it for technical reasons"
>
> **KAM Sports director Michael D'Arcy**

California clash...Mauro Icardi of Internazionale runs into Real Madrid's Pepe



Promotion...former Premier League stars (from left) Ian Wright, Mamady Sidibe and Graham Stuart launch this year's Asia Trophy in Singapore

Home fan...Van Gaal is not keen on long, overseas tours

as £2 each, does count against the region as a destination.

And although Premier League clubs have played 94 pre-season friendlies in 10 Asian countries over the last decade, they have played 97 in the USA. For all major European clubs looking to develop an international brand, the US is the big target market in pre-season.

In 2005, there were just five pre-season friendlies involving Premier League teams in the United States. Last summer, there were 25, with a game between Manchester United and Real Madrid in Michigan attracting 109,318 people.

The catalyst came in October 2012 when ABC agreed to pay $250million to screen Premier League matches on free-to-air channels in the USA for three seasons from 2013-14. With no fake-replica-shirt market, the US is also popular with shirt manufacturers.

Real Madrid shirts from adidas were the world's biggest selling shirt in 2013-14, but Nike sold most shirts, at 4.3million, including half of the top 10 most popular clubs: Manchester United, Barcelona, Arsenal, Paris Saint-Germain and Juventus. This summer, United, Barcelona and PSG meet in the USA in the latest International Champions Cup.

Clubs and sponsors are not the only ones cashing in. Some national associations levy a fee to sanction a friendly, while money also can be made from allocating officials.

In England, the FA allegedly charges up to £2,750 to supply four officials. The FA declines to comment on this, but charges are even higher elsewhere. Securing

COUNTRIES VISITED BY PREMIER LEAGUE SIDES | 2005-14

BREAKDOWN	05-06	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15
Austria	4	4	3	3	5	6	1	4	2	3
Australia	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-
Belgium	1	1	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Canada	1	-	1	1	1	2	1	1	-	1
China	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	3	-	-
Costa Rica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Croatia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Denmark	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Finland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1
France	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Germany	3	6	3	7	4	5	4	10	6	8
Greece	-	1	-	1	1	1	1	-	-	-
Holland	4	7	4	2	2	1	-	1	1	5
Hong Kong	1	-	3	-	-	-	3	1	5	-
Hungary	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1
Indonesia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-
Ireland	1	-	2	1	-	3	3	2	5	1
Italy	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	-
Japan	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Liechtenstein	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Macau	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	-
Mexico	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
New Zealand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Norway	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	-
Nigeria	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poland	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Portugal	3	-	-	3	2	3	3	3	5	-
Russia	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
San Marino	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Singapore	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Slovenia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
South Africa	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-
South Korea	1	-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	-
Spain	3	3	-	4	3	1	-	4	-	-
Sweden	2	2	1	-	-	1	2	4	1	-
Switzerland	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	2	-	-
Thailand	3	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	2
Turkey	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
USA	2	2	3	2	3	4	6	6	4	9
Vietnam	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-

permission to play a friendly and a set of officials can cost €8,000 per match in Spain and €5,000 in Cyprus, according to agents.

Agents either arrange friendlies for a fee or act as promoters, but the latter is risky due to the demands from major clubs. Most clubs look to turn a profit on pre-season and can charge appearance fees of up to £1m – while it is rumoured that Barcelona charge €2m.

"The clubs are ruthless," adds D'Arcy. "They are solely in it for the money, whereas the national teams do it for technical reasons.

"We tend not to promote club games any more as anything can go wrong, like the best players pulling out. In an international game, there are always replacements but not in club games.

"When clubs arrive and want everything first class and you have two teams wanting £1m each, you have to cover that and the travel and the cost of staging the game. Then, even if you sell out, it's not enough. So you need sponsors and TV. A lot of people have been stung putting on club games."

Costly...European champions Barcelona are said to charge €2m for a friendly

All friendlies played between clubs from different countries must be arranged by a match agent that is licensed by FIFA. At present, 316 agents have FIFA licences but only 74 of FIFA's 209 members have agents and there are as many – just two – in tiny San Marino as there are in the whole of China.

As the industry grows, so do concerns over loosely regulated matches that are staged by private companies. This is because these games are often offered as bets by bookmakers, who never pass up the opportunity to run a book on an event for fear of losing their market share.

These games can create an opportunity for corruption. Safeguarding group Sportradar monitors 35,000 matches a year for match fixing as part of a contract with UEFA. This contract does not include friendlies, but since January 2014, Sportradar has "escalated" 20

Austrian adventure...West Bromwich Albion meet Red Bull Salzburg in Schladming

club friendlies due to suspicions of match fixing being a possibility.

Liquidity on legal betting markets for friendly matches is often low and Sportradar says the game between Manchester United and Real Madrid in Michigan attracted bets totalling just €250,000. But this figure does not take into account betting on illegal markets in places like Asia, where people are crazy about both gambling and football.

"Friendly football matches, particularly between clubs, are a clear target for match-fixers because they are inherently lower profile than regular fixtures, attract fewer spectators and are not always televised," says Jake Marsh, a match-fixing and betting fraud expert at International Centre for Sports Security (ICSS). "This usually means they are not as well scrutinised and this extends to the fact that federations rarely monitor the betting markets on such matches."

A popular destination in Europe for clubs looking to run pre-season training camps and stage friendly matches is Austria, where the local football associations, the OFB, only charges a levy of €100 to sanction a friendly.

However, with few fans to watch the games, there are some concerns over the potential for matches to be rigged. When one operator tried to bring in a Romanian referee for the summer the OFB stepped in. "We only allow Austrian referees otherwise there is no come-back", says OFB administrative director, Thomas Hollerer. The OFB is keen to avoid the problems that hit Spain, which was once a popular venue for pre-season friendlies but also home to a match-fixing gang that has influenced a number of friendlies according to the ICSS.

In January this year, the ICSS warned of suspicious betting patterns during a friendly in Spain between Dutch club Den Hague and Albanian champions Skenderbeu. The same week, another friendly in Spain was abandoned after a local referee gave a fourth penalty to Belgian side Standard Liege for reasons so unclear that their opponents, Dutch side Heerenveen, simply walked off the field.

"For those that may argue friendly matches do not really matter, they are still played by professionals and bookmakers allow varieties of bets to be placed on them," says Marsh. "In some respects, the 'friendly' is also a good testing ground for organised criminals. They face less risk when infiltrating players and getting them under control for future manipulation, and they may go on to attempt fixes of competitive matches once there has been a first successful fix in a friendly."

As the pre-season schedule is inevitably ramped up this summer, managers will complain of demands on players, sponsors will be remorselessly plugged, fixers will look for easy targets and a bit of lustre will be wiped off the game before the real action even kicks off. WS

Opinion...Hong Kong FA's Sutcliffe

> "As I understand it, the [Asia Trophy] costs the Premier League money but is seen as an investment to develop the market in Asia"
>
> **Hong Kong FA chief executive Mark Sutcliffe**

Suspicious...odd betting patterns were reported during a friendly between Den Haag (green) and Skenderbeu in Spain

AUSTRIA: THE EURO CHOICE OF MANY

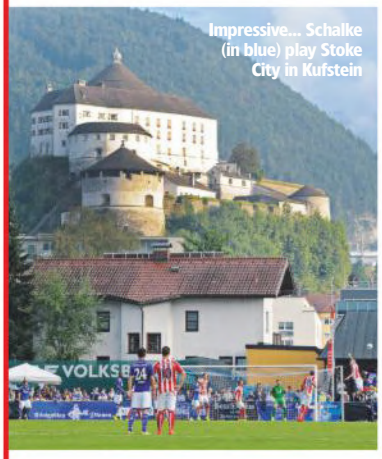
With clement weather and empty ski resorts clamouring for summertime guests, Austria has become Europe's most popular destination for pre-season training camps.

Helped by a major marketing boost in 2008, when Austria staged the European Championship with neighbours Switzerland, an industry has developed that saw more than 500 friendlies staged in Austria last summer, between clubs from places as diverse as Azerbaijan and Ukraine.

"The challenge is to provide a good package," says Thomas Plasser, an account manager at one of the leading operators, Global Sports, which was formed in 2010 and has since hosted clubs including Celtic and Sunderland.

Spain and Portugal were once popular with British clubs in pre-season but, while the USA and Germany are the top destinations for one-off games or tours, between 2005 and 2014 Premier League clubs played 58 pre-season games in Austria. That is more than the combined total for Portugal and Spain.

The summer-camp culture is more advanced in France, but Marseille and Paris Saint-Germain stopped off in Austria in 2014. In Italy, some local authorities cover the cost of training camp for their top sides to encourage tourism, but seven Serie A clubs still played a dozen games in Austria last summer, including Roma and Udinese.



Impressive... Schalke (in blue) play Stoke City in Kufstein

Athletic Bilbao were the only Spanish club to visit last summer, but half the German Bundesliga played pre-season games in Austria, including Borussia Dortmund and Hanover.

In Lower Austria, the local authority and the tourism association use former international striker Toni Pfeffer to attract clubs, but the industry is dominated by three agencies. SLFC is the biggest, and in 2014 arranged 178 matches in southern Austria and the Tyrol for 87 teams, including Chelsea, Everton, PSG, Juventus, Monaco and Sevilla; IFCS works around Syria and Burgenland; and Global Sports runs camps in Upper Austria.

The OFB vets every friendly and bans matches that could attract hooliganism. Sparta Prague were banned last summer for nine months after the Czech club's fans let off firecrackers. The same problem led to Turkish clubs being banned from playing pre-season games in Germany, so many of its sides now, like so many clubs in Europe, play matches in Austria.

Success...Xavi with the 24 trophies he won during his Barcelona career – prior to making the 2015 Champions League number 25

The man who made Barca and Spain tick

Xavi was the heartbeat of both club and country

WORDS: Sid Lowe

It was one o'clock in the morning when Xavi Hernandez left the dressing room as a Barcelona player for the last time. And he couldn't have wished for better company on his final walk, stepping out at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin and down the concrete slope underneath the main stand towards the team bus. Alongside him was Sergio Busquets and together they carried the European Cup; one handle each, the trophy swinging between them.

A few days later, Xavi headed off to Qatar and semi-retirement, aged 35. His European career was over after exactly 900 senior games: 133 for Spain and 767 for Barcelona. No one has played more times for the Catalan club; no outfield player has played more times for Spain.

No one has won more, either. You could almost imagine the removal men turning up at his new home, lugging furniture around, one of them pausing and holding up a European Cup in one hand, the Spanish Cup in the other.

"Where shall we put these?"

"Stick them there with the rest of them."

In the picture of Xavi with all the trophies he has won, there are so many there's something almost comic about the snap. Taken before this year's Champions League Final against Juventus, it wasn't even complete yet. Barcelona's 3-1 victory in Berlin was his fourth European Cup; that's four of the five that the club have won. There have been eight league titles

Special...celebrating a goal against Real Madrid in 2010

Timeline

AUG 18, 1998 — Makes his Barcelona debut in the Spanish Super Cup and scores against Mallorca.

APR 24, 1999 — Is a member of the Spain under-20 side that wins the World Youth Championship, beating Japan 4-0 in the Final.

JUN 13, 1999 — Ends his first full season at Camp Nou as a title winner under coach Louis Van Gaal.

SEP 30, 2000 — Picks up a silver medal at the Sydney Olympics after scoring in the Final as Spain lose to Cameroon on penalties.

too, the first of them in 1999, plus three Spanish Cup trophies, six Spanish Super Cups, two European Super Cups and two Club World Cups.

Twenty-five club medals make him the most successful player in Spanish history. A World Youth champion in 1999, he has also won two European Championships and the World Cup.

But it is not just what he won, it is also how he won. In fact, Xavi himself talks about victory and defeat as "impostors", about there being something deeper than success. It is not just about the trophies; it is about what he represents. Xavi was the ideologue for club and country, bringing an identity to the most successful national team and most successful club side there has been here, imposing a style and a way of playing that made them instantly recognisable.

Masterclass... outwitting Italy's Andrea Pirlo during the Euro 2012 Final

He may well be the most important Spanish player of all time, the man who helped change their history. In the words of Porto coach Julen Lopetegui, who ran Spain's under-19s and under-21s along what could be called "Xavian" lines, he "changed football". According to Lopetegui: "Xavi helped us build, or see, a new player profile that ended up running through all levels of the national team. He killed off the myth of physicality above all else.

"There are lots of players who win things, but few who lay down concepts, ideas, who change the way we think – and Xavi did that."

Andoni Zubizarreta, the former Barcelona goalkeeper and sporting director, described him as defining a new role, saying: "In the future, we will see players and say 'he plays like Xavi'."

Meanwhile, as former Athletic Bilbao player Joseba Exteberria told journalist Rodrigo Errasti: "If we analyse football as a collective sport Xavi is the most influential player I have ever seen. Others can move their team but I have only ever seen one player, and that's him, who can move all 22 players on the pitch as he wishes, to his rhythm."

An apparently throwaway line from Dani Alves also encapsulated his significance. It was not always that Xavi played passes to fit the run, it was that he played passes that obliged the run, however much he claimed that his team-mates' movement made the game easy for him. As Alves put it: "Xavi plays in the future."

Xavi's former Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said, as the end drew near: "Xavi is the most amateur player I know, and at the same time the most professional player too, such is his love for football.

"When he is not playing football, he is watching football."

It is an apt description. When *World Soccer* interviewed him in early 2011, he was soon talking about Portsmouth and Real Oviedo. His enthusiasm carried you along. Just because the tape stopped didn't mean that he had to.

That day, Xavi talked about the games he had been watching the night before. There had been five of them, he admitted – even though they weren't very good. "I was watching Sampdoria-Juventus last night and it was awful, but I stuck with it; there's always something that catches your eye, some detail," he noted, apologetically, like an excuse. At one point he checked himself and smiled a little sheepishly. "Well," he explained, "I am single."

He is not single any more but even now Xavi can't help himself. He loves football. There was a moment during that chat when Matthew Le Tissier was mentioned and Xavi's eyes lit up in excitement. Le Tissier once joked he was going to get a T-shirt made with the words "Xavi's idol" on it. Praise indeed. *World Soccer's* Player

Attention...Xavi is closely watched by Deportivo La Coruna's defence

Scores his first "*El Clasico*" goal as Barcelona draw 1-1 with Real Madrid at Camp Nou.

MAR 15, 2002

Barcelona win La Liga for the first time in six years after beating Villarreal at Camp Nou.

MAY 22, 2005

After missing four months through injury, he makes the bench for the Champions League Final victory against Arsenal.

MAY 17, 2006

Finishes on the losing side as Barcelona are beaten 1-0 by Internacional of Brazil in the Club World Cup Final.

DEC 16, 2006

Voted player of the tournament as Spain win the European Championship Final, beating Germany 1-0.

JUN 29, 2008

of the Year for 2010, Xavi was always obsessed with the game and a committed believer in a specific approach – the technical Barcelona and Spain approach that he represents.

Enthusiasm and ideology – with Xavi, the two things go hand in hand. "Look, the thing is," he told *World Soccer* that day at the club's Sant Joan Despi training ground, "I like football so much. I enjoy this. I like the demands, I like the game, I like trying to perfect things. I watch so much football. All of it. Everything."

"Don't you ever get bored?"

"No," came the reply. "Of course there are games that are boring, but no. Football doesn't bore me. I like to watch players. What's he like? What's he doing? What are they trying to achieve?"

To listen to him talk about his own role on the pitch was to see the constant analysis, the thought, the awareness. He described himself as someone who spends all game thinking about space, looking for it, and then distributing the ball, to all of his team-mates.

"My game is seeing a free man and giving it to him. I think: 'Bloody hell, the defender is here, so I've got to play it there,' he said. "Sometimes, I even think to myself: 'this team-mate is going to get annoyed because I have played three passes in a row and I haven't given him the ball yet. I better give the next one to, say, Dani because he's gone up the wing three times now and I haven't given him a pass. When Messi hasn't been involved in the game I think: 'the next pass is for him.' So I'm working out not only the space but who's had passes from me."

There was an almost religious zeal about his defence of his view of football, his philosophy – one that could be exclusive and, at times, annoyed those who did not share it. His dismissal of other styles as somehow not being football irritated many, while others saw a puritanical streak in him, one that they felt too many others had taken as gospel. And yet there is a kind of realism in his commitment to that model too and acceptance was slow in coming; it has not always been easy.

"There are lots of players who win things, but few who lay down concepts, ideas, who change the way we think, and Xavi did that"

Julen Lopetegui, former coach of Spain's under-19s and under-21s

Xavi made his debut in 1999, a goal saving Louis Van Gaal's job as manager. At the end of the year, *Don Balon* magazine named him their *"revelacion"* of the year. He had won a first league title and the World Cup at youth level followed. But the style of football he represented was not always trusted or successful; it was not until 2005 that he won anything again and his future was far from secure. He certainly did not yet have the status he would come to enjoy later on.

If he agreed that he came to be seen as the defender of a footballing faith, Xavi insisted that was because he had very little choice. He described players like him as an "endangered species" in a game that was, in his eyes, increasingly all about physique. Winning changed that, bringing confidence and commitment, acceptance and imitation too. He laughs now at how he and Andres Iniesta were seen as a problem, not a solution. He did not laugh then. Fortunately, two men came into his life whose impact on him was as huge as his was on the game in Spain.

"Winning serves to make people re-evaluate our style, my style," he recalled. "I'm very happy because, from an egotistical point of view, six years ago I was extinct as a player; footballers like me were in danger of dying out."

He was in danger of not continuing at Barcelona, too; an entire career has been spent at the Camp Nou but it could have been different.

Xavi's mother was instrumental in him not leaving Barcelona when the first offer came in, from Milan, when he was just a teenager. Others followed and there was the chance, too, of Xavi leaving towards the end of the Frank Rijkaard era when Barcelona appeared to be collapsing. At least, that's what he feared. The rumours that the club wanted to sell him, that they did not rate him, reached him.

But then so did Luis Aragones and so did Guardiola; the summer of 2008 was a new beginning. "With Luis, the revolution began: Spain swapped fury for the ball and showed that we could win playing good football. Without him, nothing would have been the same," Xavi recalled in an open letter to Aragones written after the coach's death. What Aragones did was

Winner...Xavi (fourth right in front row) won the 1999 Liga in his first season

Like minds...with Guardiola

Scores the fourth goal as Barcelona come from behind to beat Athletic Bilbao 4-1 and win the Spanish Cup. **MAY 13, 2009**

Crosses for Lionel Messi to head home as Barcelona beat Manchester United 2-0 in the Champions League Final in Rome. **MAY 27, 2009**

Wins the Club World Cup for the first time as Barcelona beat Estudiantes 2-1, in extra-time, in the Final. **DEC 19, 2009**

Helps Spain win the World Cup for the first time as they beat Holland 1-0 in Johannesburg. **JUL 11, 2010**

Puts in a fantastic display as captain in the 3-1 victory over Manchester United in the Champions League Final at Wembley. **MAY 28, 2011**

Scores a goal and makes one as Barcelona beat Santos 4-0 in the Club World Cup Final. **DEC 18, 2011**

change the style to Xavi's style. Xavi would lay the path for Spain to walk down.

"He would come up to my room and we talked for hours, often about style," said Xavi. "He'd say: 'That's the key, knowing what kind of football we want to play; to have no fear, however much they run. You and I know that the ball runs more'.

"He made me feel important when my self-esteem was a disaster. He gave me the controls for Spain when I did not even have them for Barcelona. 'You run this team, and let them criticise me'. "

Guardiola agreed. "Pep said to me: 'Look, I can't even imagine a Barcelona team without you, I want you with me, I just don't see this team without you in it', " Xavi explained. "And that was that."

"That" was everything, the kind of dominance the modern era rarely sees. A shift in paradigm, something new, perhaps even epoch defining. Every year for five consecutive years, Xavi was at the heart of the team that claimed the most significant trophies on the planet: the European Championship in 2008, the European Cup in 2009, the World Cup in 2010, the European Cup in 2011, the European Championship in 2012.

Appreciation... with coach Enrique after Barca win the 2015 Spanish Cup

> "My game is seeing a free man and giving [the ball] to him" Xavi

Just before the Final of Euro 2012, Xavi had decided that his time with the national team was probably over. He told Vicente Del Bosque that the Final would be his last game. Del Bosque persuaded him to stay, to give it two more years. It had not been his best tournament; in 2008 he had been given the Golden Ball and in 2010 his control of games in South Africa saw him on the podium for the Ballon d'Or. But Spain destroyed Italy 4-0 in the Final and that day Xavi was superb. Afterwards, the Spain coach said: "You see?"

Finale...hoisting the Champions League after his last game for Barcelona

Xavi continued, but he may have wished he had not. Age waits for no man, tactics were shifting and so was the environment. By Brazil 2014, it was different. Spain were the first team knocked out. After their final game against Australia, Xavi left Curitiba, an unused substitute, without a word.

He seemed set to leave Barcelona, too: there were offers from the US and Qatar. He retired from international football and was ready to leave European club football, where the season had ended trophyless. His style was questioned once more. Some called it "the death of *tiki taka*"; others claimed that a style that had won it all like no other had been "found out". An era was over, they said. His era.

Barcelona were evolving. Ivan Rakitic had been signed to replace Xavi. But instead of going, Xavi eventually stayed. The coach Luis Enrique was clear and honest with him. If he wanted, there could be one more year. His role was a reduced one, and the debate raged almost all season, but it was important too – on and off the pitch. Few had the moral authority to manage the crisis in January like Xavi did. He was fundamental, intervening with Lionel Messi.

And slowly, things were falling into place: incredibly, Barcelona were closing in on a treble, their second in seven years. What a way to go. It had been unthinkable at the beginning of the campaign. Tears in his eyes, Xavi bade farewell. "I could not have wished for a better ending," he said.

"He will leave here through the *puerta grande*, triumphantly through the main gate," Enrique said on the eve of the Champions League Final. "It would have felt wrong if he had left last season and I am so pleased he can leave like this, in the way that I would have liked Víctor Valdes and Carles Puyol to have been able to as well. He deserves it.

"His importance is beyond doubt: he has played more games than anyone else at Barcelona, in an era when staying at a club this big for so long is extremely difficult, and he has won more titles than anyone else. Now he has the chance to try to win one more."

In Germany he did, and as captain too, coming on to replace Iniesta, his friend and team-mate handing over the armband, attaching it for him. One last time, one last success. 23, 24, 25... His last three games as a professional in Europe, his 898th, 899th and 900th matches, all ended the same way: with him lifting a trophy. First it was the league title; the Saturday after that, it was the Spanish Cup and the Saturday after that Xavi walked out of the Olympic Stadium carrying the European Cup. WS

JUL 1, 2012 – Spain beat Italy 4-0 to become the first team to retain the European Championship.

JAN 16, 2014 – Makes his 700th appearance for Barcelona, in a Spanish Cup tie against Getafe.

JUN 13, 2014 – Plays as Spain lose 5-1 to Holland in their opening game of the World Cup in Brazil but is dropped for the remaining matches.

MAY 17, 2015 – Helps Barcelona beat the previous season's champions, Atletico Madrid, to claim a 23rd Liga title.

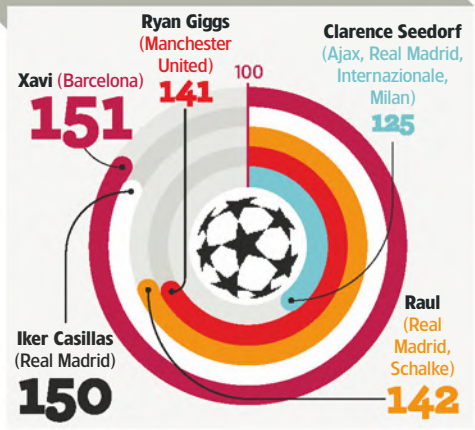
MAY 30, 2015 – In his last game at Camp Nou, Barcelona beat Athletic Bilbao in the Spanish Cup Final.

JUN 6, 2015 – Replaces Andres Iniesta after 78 minutes for his final match for Barca – a fifth European Cup, beating Juventus 3-1 in Berlin.

Xavi

the numbers game

MOST CHAMPIONS LEAGUE APPEARANCES

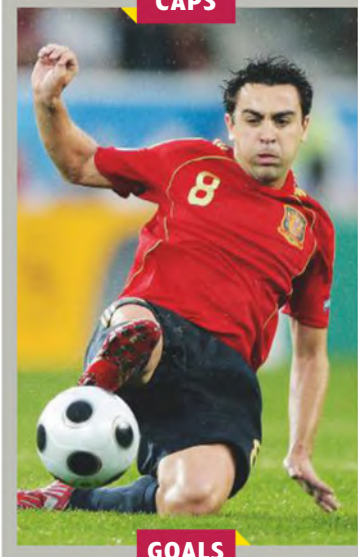


WORLD SOCCER'S PLAYER OF THE YEAR

SPAIN

113

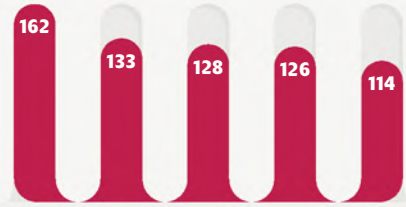
CAPS



GOALS

12

MOST CAPPED PLAYER FOR SPAIN

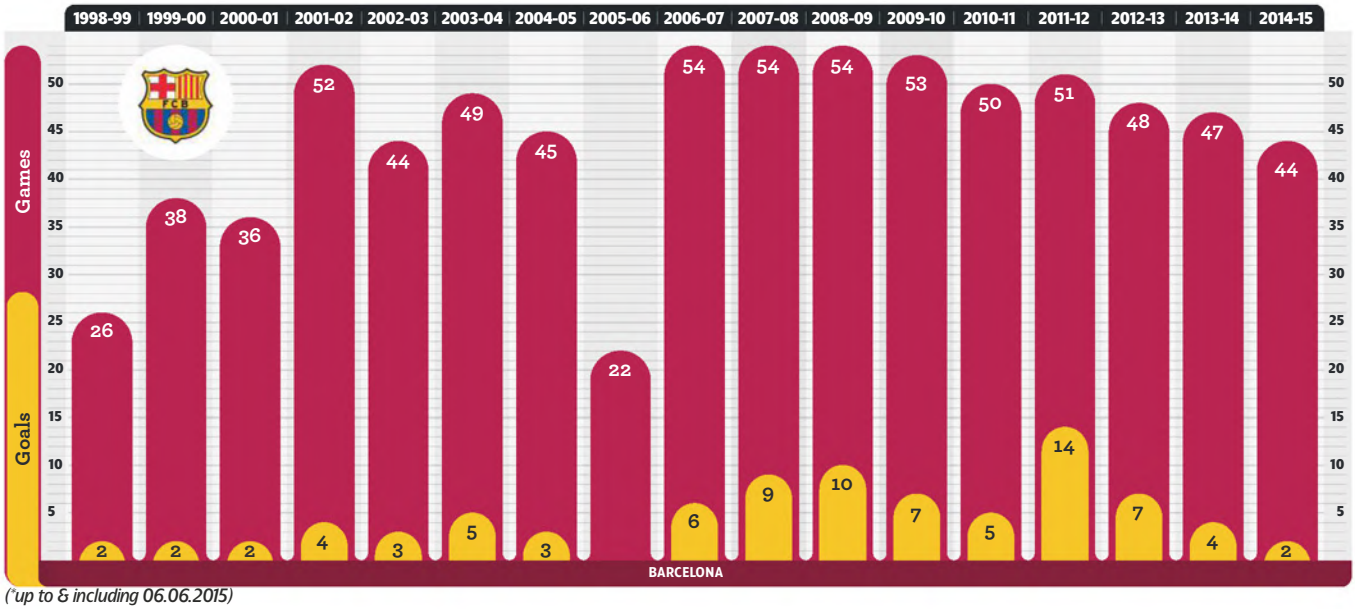


Iker Casillas	Xavi	Sergio Ramos	Andoni Zubizarreta	Xabi Alonso
2000–present	2000-14	2005-present	1985-98	2003-14

HONOURS

BARCELONA	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
La Liga:	✓	–	–	–	–	–	✓	✓	–	–	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	–	✓
Spanish Cup:	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	✓	–	–	✓
Spanish Super Cup:	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	✓	–	–	✓	✓	✓	–	✓	–	–
Champions League:	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	✓	–	✓	–	–	–	✓
UEFA Super Cup:	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	✓	–	–	–	–
Club World Cup:	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	✓	–	–	–	–
SPAIN																	
World Cup:	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	–	–
European Championship:	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–	✓	–	–	–

91% passing success rate at the 2010 World Cup, where he was named in the All-star Team as Spain won the tournament for the first time



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Gerrard joins Galaxy of stars

The former England and Liverpool midfielder follows in the footsteps of David Beckham and Robbie Keane

WORDS:
Paul Gardner

MLS Cup winners for three of the last four years, Los Angeles Galaxy welcomed Steven Gerrard to American soccer's most glamorous and successful club this summer. But the game hasn't been without its ups and downs in this part of the United States.

According to the Urban Dictionary, Los Angeles is "a massive tangle of highways and roads, also rumoured to contain people and houses." The "City of Angels" was founded by the Spanish in 1781, and the Americans took over in 1850, bringing the cars

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and the massive tangle. Since then the city has spread exuberantly, making it – along with Tokyo and New York – one of the world's most populous areas, with nearly four million people in the city and over 10m in the county. In the midst of all that growth – and responsible for much of it – the city also spawned Hollywood, the world capital of the movie industry.

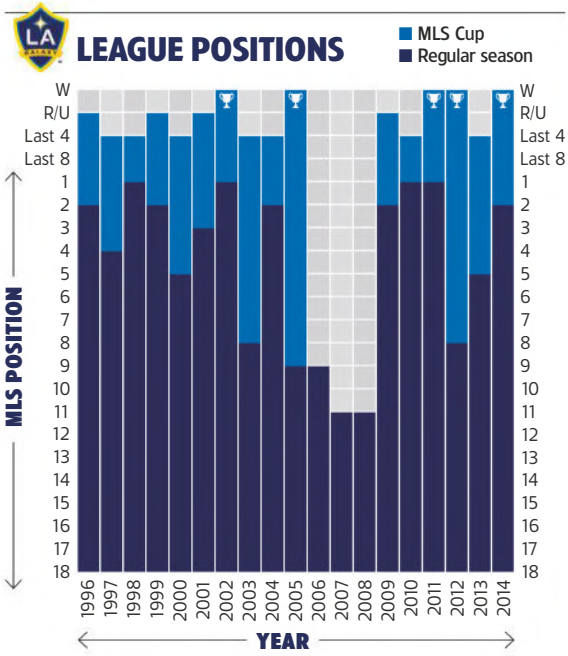
While Los Angeles was becoming a decidedly unique place to live, soccer was growing in the USA – but slowly and thousands of miles away, over on the east coast and in the mid west. For some 40 years, after its beginning in 1914, the Open Cup was dominated by teams from New York, Pennsylvania, New England, Chicago and St Louis. When the pro American Soccer League (ASL) was formed in 1921 it was exclusively a north-eastern league.

Los Angeles, stuck way out on the west coast, was isolated by the difficulties of long-distance travel. But in January 1959 the first commercial jet flight from LA arrived in New York and from then on, Los Angeles teams – Maccabi Los Angeles, Los Angeles Kickers, LA Croatia and Los Angeles Armenians, were the most successful and featured regularly in Open Cup Finals. These, however, were mostly amateur teams, with only the Kickers able to claim to be professional.

Winners...Alexi Lalas, who went on to become the club's chief executive, lifts the MLS Cup in 2002

The ASL had collapsed in 1933, but big-time professional soccer was about to enter the picture with not one but two coast-to-coast leagues launched in 1967: the United Soccer Association (USA) and the National Professional Soccer League (NPSL). Both included a team from LA, but neither LA Wolves in the USA or LA Toros in the NPSL lasted very long. The two leagues merged in time for the 1968 season, becoming the North American Soccer League (NASL), but the Toros moved south to San Diego while the Wolves played the season then folded.

Hard sell...Dallas Burn visit a near-empty Rose Bowl in 1996



It was a lousy beginning for pro soccer in LA and things didn't get much better during the next 28 years. In 1974 a new team, the LA Aztecs, joined the NASL and won the championship in their first year.

The Aztecs tried hard to sell the sport, signing an ageing George Best for three seasons, from 1976 to 1978, while Johan Cruyff played in 1978, but they ended up with a measly attendance average of just over 9,000 per game. They were joined in 1978 by California Surf, who were based in Anaheim, but they folded in 1981, along with the Aztecs.

Three years later the NASL disappeared, and for the next 11 years there was no pro soccer in the USA.

A huge problem for the Aztecs, that had never been solved, was simply finding somewhere to play. In its eight years it used four different stadiums, two of them college stadiums – both small and carrying the stigma of being a non-professional environment – while the other two, the Coliseum and the Rose Bowl, both with a capacity of over 90,000, were absurdly too big.

What turned this gloomy scene into one of great hope – for American pro soccer in general, and Los Angeles in particular – was the staggeringly successful staging of the 1994 World Cup, with huge crowds everywhere, none more so than in LA, where Brazil beat Italy in the Final at the Rose Bowl jammed with 94,000 fans.

The biggest legacy of the World Cup was the creation of Major League Soccer, which started in 1996 with 10 clubs – one of which was the Los Angeles Galaxy.

MLS adopted a "single entity" concept to limit spending and encourage investors who might otherwise be put off by the

More like it...Galaxy's Home Depot Center is packed for an MLS Cup game in 2007

game's history of failure in the US. The league itself signed a number of top players and allocated them to various clubs. Flamboyant Mexican goalkeeper Jorge Campos arrived at Galaxy where among his team-mates were 5ft 6ins El Salvadoran playmaker Mauricio Cienfuegos and US winger Cobi Jones.

The team, under coach Lothar Osiander, had a great first season, reaching the Final where it lost to Bruce Arena's DC United.

Osiander was replaced by his assistant, Ecuadorian Octavio Zambrano, the following season and in 1997 they became the first US team to reach the CONCACAF Champions Cup Final, where they lost to Cruz Azul of Mexico. The following season Galaxy broke the MLS scoring record with 85 goals.

But the big change came when Galaxy were bought by AEG, the sports-marketing conglomerate owned by billionaire Phil Anschutz. Galaxy, it was proclaimed, would become "the club by which all others are measured". AEG meant business, and high on its list of priorities was a determination to shift the team out of the huge Rose Bowl. Plans were announced for the building of a soccer-specific stadium.

Zambrano soon found out he did not figure in AEG's plans when he was fired after just five games of the 1999 season and was replaced by Sigi Schmid, a long-time college coach at UCLA, who led Galaxy to their first trophy: the CONCACAF Champions Cup in 2000.

But the MLS title was the one that really mattered and that didn't arrive until 2002, when Schmid's team took the trophy by beating New England Revolution 1-0.

Galaxy took a huge step forward the following year with the opening of the 27,000-capacity Home Depot Center Stadium in Carson, about 10 miles south of downtown Los Angeles, but still considered part of the city. The shining brilliance of the new stadium was not, however, reflected on the pitch.

> Gullit had no experience of the American scene or the MLS single entity set up. Nor did he have the patience to deal with it

Galaxy made the play-offs, where they met San Jose, and after winning the first leg 2-0 went 2-0 up in San Jose to lead 4-0 on aggregate. However, the home team staged a remarkable come-back, scoring five goals to eliminate Galaxy.

That humiliating exit marked the beginning of the end for Schmid, who was soon replaced by former US national team coach Steve Sampson. In 2005 Sampson's team took the MLS title, but the most significant event of that year was the arrival of Landon Donovan, who was destined to become the team's most important player.

The next two years saw Galaxy reacting, not always too well, to a series of major upheavals. Just before the 2006 season, the team's much-respected young general manager, Doug Hamilton, died of a heart attack. Halfway through the season came yet another coaching change, with Sampson replaced by Frank Yallop. Maybe Yallop would have pulled things together but he never really had the chance. Just after Jones announced that 2007 would be his final season came the earth-shaking news that David Beckham would be joining the team later that year.

MLS rules were changed for this move, allowing teams to sign one or two so-called Designated Players and pay them outside the restrictive salary cap. This "Beckham rule" was the first serious retreat from single-entity caution.

Beckham arrived, his advisors with him. The excitement created by his presence was offset by the disruption it caused to team chemistry. Beckham suffered injuries, the team did not play well, it missed out on the play-offs and Yallop departed at the end of 2007.

With the help of Beckham's advisors, the next coaching appointment proved to be one of truly inspired ineptitude. In came former Dutch star Ruud Gullit, blessed with a reported $6m three-year contract. But Gullit had no experience of the American scene, and the intricacies and peculiarities of the MLS single entity set-up. Nor had he any patience to deal with it. The result was an inevitable disaster and, in August, Gullit resigned and general manager Alexi Lalas was fired.

Arena was brought in as coach, but the team finished 2008 with its worst-ever record of only eight wins in 30 games and

Ageing star...George Best spent three seasons with the LA Aztecs

LA'S OTHER CLUB

With over 10 million people in the greater Los Angeles area, it was always likely the city would get a second MLS team, and they arrived in 2005 with Chivas-USA.

The Mexican owner-investors were led by Jorge Vergara, owner of CD Guadalajara in Mexico, whose nickname is "*Chivas*" – which translates as "goats".

Chivas-USA was positioned as a sister club of Guadalajara and aimed to play Mexican-style soccer with, it was hoped, particular appeal to the huge Mexican-American population of Los Angeles. But while this seemed an excellent idea – the tastes of the Hispanic fans had long been neglected – it flopped badly. After a poor opening season, the owners panicked, hastily bringing in non-Mexican players and a series of non-Mexican coaches, most of whom didn't even speak Spanish.

In 10 years the club had 11 coaches and, far from playing Mexican-style football, the team never developed any style at all. They shared the Home Depot Stadium with Galaxy and this also worked against Chivas-USA developing their own personality. After nine uninspiring seasons, Chivas-USA was sold to the league. MLS operated it in 2014 then closed it down, announcing it was seeking a new group of investors to re-start the franchise under a new name.

The new investors had to guarantee they would build their own stadium and so far a group of 22 investors has been assembled – including Cardiff City owner Vincent Tan – who, under the name Los Angeles FC, plan to build a stadium, hopefully in downtown Los Angeles, and begin playing in 2017.

bottom of the Western Division. But Arena eventually calmed things down and took Galaxy into the MLS Cup Final in 2009, where they lost to Real Salt Lake.

Beckham's frequent absences from the line-up – sometimes it was an injury, sometimes personal engagements elsewhere – angered many Galaxy fans. After sitting out most of the 2010 season with a broken Achilles tendon (suffered while on loan to Milan), he ended his Galaxy years with two championships, in 2011 and 2012, but the truth is that these successes owed more to Donovan's inspiration than Beckham's contribution.

> Beckham's frequent absences from the line-up – sometimes an injury or sometimes personal engagements – angered many Galaxy fans

Galaxy, by now established as the most popular and most publicised team in MLS, grabbed headlines with a global first when Robbie Rogers became a regular starter in 2013 – the first openly gay male to play at the top level of any pro sport.

In 2014 Galaxy again took the MLS title for a third time in four years, but talk of a dynasty was muted, for two reasons. Firstly, there were the MLS financial regulations, which were designed to maintain parity amongst its teams. Secondly, there was the retirement of Donovan after a 10-year Galaxy career in which he scored 112 goals in 247 games, while the team won four MLS championships.

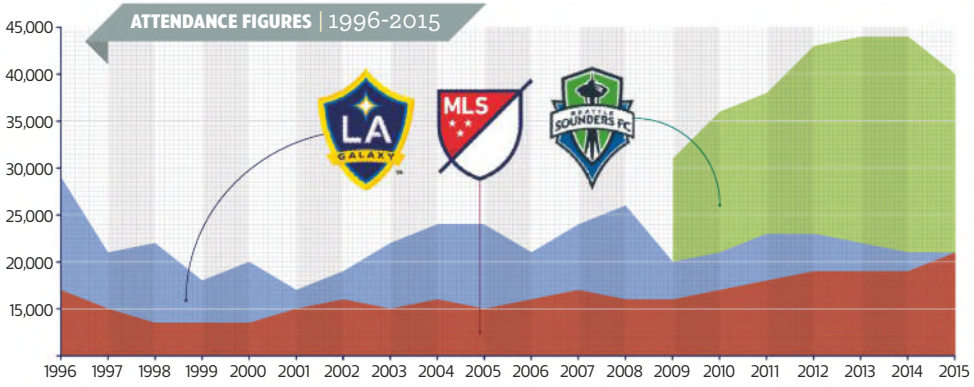
The rise and rise of Galaxy is a very Los Angeles – almost a Hollywood – story. In no time at all, just 19 years, a respected football club with a global footprint has been created. Financially successful of course – that's a given in the home of capitalism. In 2003, then CEO Tim Leiweke claimed Galaxy was the first MLS club to turn a profit. That was before it had moved into its own stadium, a step up that allowed it to rake in even more cash.

But even as Gerrard joins up, the team is not all about stars.

With players such as Gyasi Zardes, Jose Villarreal, Bradford Jamieson, Rafael Garcia and Oscar Sorto all coming through the youth system, the future looks bright indeed out on the west coast. WS

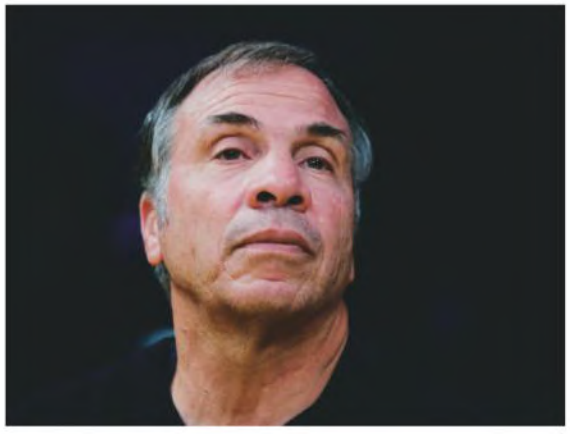
Ours again...Keane lifts the MLS Cup after last season's victory over New England Revolution

New wave...Leonardo in action against Vancouver Whitecaps



(these are average regular-season attendance figures and don't include play-off games)*

THE COACH

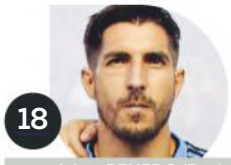


BRUCE ARENA
Age 63 (21.09.51)
USA's most successful coach of all time, he won five national championships with the University of Virginia before collecting five MLS titles – with DC United in 1996 and 1997, and Galaxy in 2011, 2012 and 2014. Had an eight-year tenure in charge of the national side that included reaching the World Cup quarter-finals in 2002.

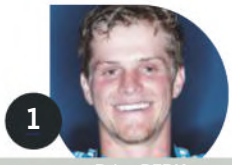
THE KIT

THE SQUAD

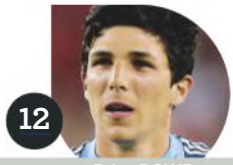
GOALKEEPERS



18 Jaime PENEDO (Pan)
Age 33 (26.09.81)
His country's second-most capped player with 100-plus games. Galaxy's first choice since arriving in mid 2013.



1 Brian PERK
Age 25 (21.07.89)
A local product and former USA youth international, he has played fewer than 10 MLS games since joining Galaxy in 2010.



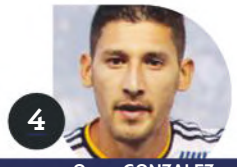
12 Brian ROWE
Age 26 (16.11.88)
Oregon product who played at nearby UCLA. Steps in when Penedo is on international duty.

DEFENDERS

20 AJ DELAGARZA (Gum)
Age 27 (04.11.87)
Born in Maryland to a Mexican-Guamanian father and Native American mother, he played in Guam's first World Cup win, over Turkmenistan in June.

2 Todd DUNIVANT
Age 34 (26.12.80)
The 14-year MLS veteran has been a part of four Galaxy MLS titles but sees little action these days.

33 Dan GARGAN
Age 32 (14.12.82)
A key member during his first season with Galaxy last year after stints with San Jose, Chicago, Toronto, Chivas-USA and Colorado.



4 Omar GONZALEZ
Age 26 (11.10.88)
Texas-raised 6ft 5in central defender who is a perennial all-league selection. Played for the USA at the 2014 World Cup.

22 LEONARDO (Bra)
Age 27 (08.02.88)
Joined Galaxy in 2010 – along with fellow Sao Paulo youth product Juninho – and became a regular starter last year.

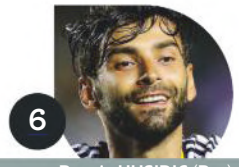
21 Tommy MEYER
Age 25 (20.03.90)
Missouri product who joined Galaxy from college soccer in 2014 but has started fewer than half of the team's games in the past two seasons.

36 Oscar SORTO
Age 20 (13.08.94)
Born to Salvadoran parents, he represented USA at the 2013 Under-20 World Cup. Signed in 2012 and made his debut the following season.

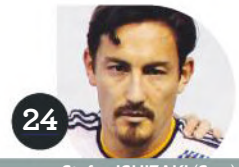
MIDFIELDERS

25 Rafael GARCIA
Age 26 (19.12.88)
The defensive midfielder has seen more minutes this season than his combined appearances in his first three years with the club.

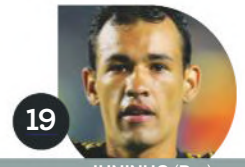
8 Steven GERRARD (Eng)
Age 35 (30.05.80)
Liverpool hero who signed for the Galaxy in January and joined up with the club this summer, having turned down several offers to stay in Europe.



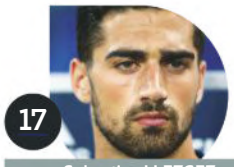
6 Baggio HUSIDIC (Bos)
Age 28 (19.05.87)
Came to the US as a child, fleeing the Bosnian War. Started every regular season game in 2014, after signing from Sweden's Hammarby.



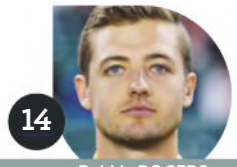
24 Stefan ISHIZAKI (Swe)
Age 33 (15.05.982)
The former Swedish international was a 2014 finalist for MLS Newcomer of the Year. Signed from Elfsborg in his homeland.



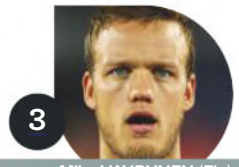
19 JUNINHO (Bra)
Age 26 (08.01.89)
Sao Paulo academy product who arrived in Los Angeles at the age of 21. He has played nearly 200 games and been involved in three MLS titles.



17 Sebastian LLETGET
Age 22 (03.09.92)
Signed from West Ham United in 2015, having moved to the Premier League side's International academy in England in 2009.



14 Robbie ROGERS
Age 28 (12.05.87)
First openly gay male to play in one of the top five team sports in the US, he won the MLS title with Columbus in 2008. Had a stint with Leeds United.



3 Mika VAYRYNEN (Fin)
Age 33 (28.12.81)
Capped 64 times by Finland, his CV includes spells at PSV – where he was a Dutch league champion twice – and Leeds United.

FORWARDS

16 Edson BUDDLE
Age 34 (21.05.81)
Scored 100 MLS goals, but is now used sparingly from the bench. Currently in his third spell with Galaxy, after joining from Colorado Rapids.

9 Alan GORDON
Age 33 (16.10.81)
Rejoined Galaxy from San Jose Earthquakes last year and has a habit of coming off the bench to score. Won his first cap for the USA in 2012.

38 Bradford JAMIESON IV
Age 18 (18.11.96)
Galaxy academy product who scored his first MLS goal a month before playing for the USA at the 2015 Under-20 World Cup.

7 Robbie KEANE (RoI)
Age 34 (08.07.80)
Has won three MLS Cups since moving to Galaxy in 2011 from Tottenham Hotspur. Was the league's MVP in 2014 with 21 goals and 17 assists.

15 Ignacio MAGANTO (Spa)
Age 23 (02.01.92)
Played nine games in England for Reading before joining Galaxy in 2015. Born in Madrid and played for Getafe's youth team.

5 Jose VILLARREAL
Age 21 (10.09.93)
Mexican-American who is a Galaxy youth product and returned to the club after an unsuccessful 2014 loan stint with Mexico's Cruz Azul.

11 Gyasi ZARDES
Age 23 (02.09.91)
His 16 goals last term were the most by a homegrown player in an MLS season. Hit his first international goal in June, in a friendly win against Holland.

(Penpics by Mike Woitalla; all ages correct as of 17.07.15)

World Soccer vintage 26 years ago

July 1989

Each month we look back at the talking points of the decades

The cover of the July 1989 edition of *World Soccer* featured Pele in a Scotland tracksuit alongside two young Australian players. The Brazilian had been promoting the World Under-16 Championship in Scotland and the magazine devoted its first four pages to a tournament described by Paul Gardner as "the true coming of age of the Under-16 World Cup".

Gardner wrote: "The Scots gave this tournament the credibility it has been seeking. The sheer quality of the football, the exuberance of the players, proved an irresistible draw. The success of Scotland was the perfect accompaniment."

Scotland, against all the odds, reached the Final, and their semi-final victory over a Portugal team coached by Carlos Queiroz saw 29,000 fans packed into Tynecastle, in Edinburgh, to witness a 1-0 win courtesy of a 53rd-minute header by Brian O'Neill.

In the Final, the hosts met a Saudi Arabia team who played a brand of football influenced by Brazil, and Keir Radnedge explained that the Saudi's Brazilian coach Ivo Wortmann "even had the young Saudis practising the Brazilian samba – rhythm formation dancing – in their warm-up".

Radnedge added: "[The Final] produced a 51,700 crowd at Hampden Park, which is rather more than the senior Scotland team managed to attract for the Rous Cup tie against Chile.

"There were features of the Scottish game that upset the Saudis. They looked vulnerable every time the Scots used a long throw and were troubled by the direct pace of Scotland's forwards.

"The Saudi game is somewhat different, as they demonstrated on several occasions when their forwards appeared to want to walk the ball into the net rather than shoot. We had been led to believe that this style went out of fashion with Hugo Meisl's Austrian '*Wunderteam*' in the 1930s."

However, questions had been raised earlier in the tournament, by both Portuguese coach Queiroz and Scotland manager Craig Brown, about the age of the Saudi players.

Brown had remarked on TV, somewhat jovially, that "some of the players wouldn't look out of place in an under-28 team" let alone an under-16 side.

And when Saudi Arabia fought back from two goals down to level at 2-2 and eventually win the penalty shoot-out, Radnedge concluded: "The Saudi midfield [eventually] seized control with a maturity and fitness level which surprised the Scots.

"Men against boys, as it were..." WS

> "The Saudi game is somewhat different as they demonstrated on several occasions when their forwards appeared to want to walk the ball into the net rather than shoot" **Keir Radnedge**

TWO WORLD SOCCER, JULY 1989

Skill puts Saudis o

By KEIR RADNEDGE in Glasgow

WORLD UNDER-16 FINAL

Glasgow/Hampden – June 24
Scotland 2 (Downie 7, Dickov 25)
Saudi Arabia 2 (Al–Reshoudi 49, Al–Terair 65)

HT: 2–0. 90min: 2–2. **Att:** 51,674. Ref: Escobar (Guatemala).

Saudi Arabia 5–4 on penalties, after extra time

Scotland: Wills – McMillan, Marshall, Bain (capt), Beattie – Downie (Murray 98), Lindsey, O'Neill, Bollan – McGoldrick (McLaren 82), Dickov. Subs not used: Dolan, Flannigan, Dickson.

S.Arabia: Al–Deayea – Abdulshkor – Burshaid, Al–Theneyan, Al–Alwi, Al–Reshoudi – Al–Hamdi, Al–Hammali, Al– Shamrani – Al–Terair, Al–Raoudi (Al–Mosa 99). Subs not used: Al–Suwaileh, Al–Ahmadi, Al–Tmyat.

Penalty shoot–out (Scotland first): Dickov over the bar, 0–0 – Al–Hammali goal, 0–1; Bollan goal, 1–1 – Al–Mosa goal, 1–2; McLaren goal, 2–2 – Al–Shamrani hit bar and over, 2–2; Bain goal, 3–2 – Al–Theneyen goal, 3–3; Marshall goal, 4–3 – Al–Terair goal, 4–4. Sudden death: O'Neill shot saved, 4–4 – Al–Alwi goal, 4–5.

JVC Man of the Match: Al–Reshoudi.

first half:
0 – Scotland kick off.
3 – A smart Saudi move down the right. Burshaid finds Al–Shamrani but when Al–Roushi accelerates into the penalty box his angled shot is blocked for a corner by the foot of Wills.
7 – Scotland take the lead as DOWNIE heads home a cross from the left by Dickov after a misunderstanding in the Saudi defence. Downie's header just under the bar catches Al–Deayea badly out of position. 1–0 to Scotland.
19 – Dickov is ticked off by the referee for trying to take a Saudi defender off at the knees.
20 – Bollan fires just behind the side net from a free kick just outside the penalty box angle.
25 – Scotland go further ahead. Dickov chases to the Saudi byline. Abdulshkor and and Al–Theneyan leave the danger for each other to deal with allowing DICKOV, from an apparently impossible angle, to chip the ball inside the far post. 2–0 to Scotland.
36 – Al–Reshoudi is shown the yellow card for a retaliatory push on O'Neill despite having already awarded the free kick after a minor tussle between them. 37 – Bain drives a touched free kick for goal and Al–Deayea does well to flip it over the bar.
38 – Skilful turn and shot by Al–Hammali forces Wills into a hurried, stretching save.
39 – A second yellow card for the Saudis is shown to Al–Alwi. Half–time: Scotland 2, Saudi Arabia 0.
41 – Saudi Arabia start the second half with a good shot by Al–Terair well held bu the falling Wills.
43 – Al–Reshoudi puts in Al–Shamrani on the left but, just as he cuts in on goal he, like several team–mates on other occasions, loses his footing.
44 – Abdulshkor nearly scores an own goal with a hard–hit, head–high backpass which is well stopped by his keeper.
49 – Ah–Hamdi tries to walk the ball into the net then falls over his feet and misskicks. In the ensuing scramble the Saudis are awarded a free kick on the edge of the box. From the touch, Al–Reshoudi drives the ball through the defensive wall and past Wills into the net. Scotland 2, Saudi Arabia 1.
54 – A long clearance by goalkeeper Al–Deayea is flicked on skilfully by Al–Terair but Al–Roahi, under pressure, shoots too high.
55 – Bain is shown the yellow card for time wasting at a Scotland free kick. 56 – The Saudis come desperately close

Talented...Saudi are crowned champions

WORLD SOCCER
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine
JULY 1989 £1.25
WORLD UNDER-16 FINALS
WORLD CUP
EUROPE NEWS SPECIAL
ARNOLD MUHREN CALLS IT A DAY
CLUB FOCUS SOUTH AMERICA'S NEW CHAMPIONS
ULI HOENESS: KEY MAN AT BAYERN

Youngsters bring fun back to soccer

PAUL GARDNER REPORTS

Unbeaten

Age row fails to wreck triumph in Scotland

RESULTS, SCORERS

Credibility...the Under-16 World Cup finally came of age in Scotland

ORLD SOCCER, JULY 1989 THREE

n top of the world

Action from an early round (left) as Ghana score against Cuba.

to an equaliser. Al–Shamrani sends Al–terair clear but Wills comes out well to block the target the Saudi forward steers his shot wide of the keeper's left–hand post.
59 – Al–Hamdi is shown the yellow card after taking his turn in the rota apparently organised to pull down the battered, but patient Dickov.
62 – Bollan tries to power Scotland back into the game. He forges his way into Saudi territory, runs unchallenged into the penalty box and is tripped by Abdulshkor. O'Neill takes a very deliberate spot kick but Al–Deayea, guessing and moving well in advance, punches the ball to safety. As it proved, a most costly miss
65 – Saudi Arabia back on the attack. Al–Reshoudi crosses from out on the left. The ball skids across the face of the Scotland goal and Al–Terair is unmarked beyond the far post to shoot home. Scotland 2, Saudi Arabia 2.
72 – Al–Hamdi, booked earlier, is sent off for a second yellow card offence as he kicks the ball away after conceding a free kick.
73 – Al–Deayea plays injured after catching a cross so that Al–Rouahi can take instructions from the touchline on how to reorganise.
77 – A yellow card now for Bollan.
79 – Al–Hammali blatantly trips Dickov as he breaks in midfield – a much worse fotence than the one for which Al–Hamdi was sent off.
80 – Full–time: Scotland 2, Saudi 2.

Extra–time:
82 – Scotland substitute McGoldrick with McLaren.
84 – Al–Rouahi misses a free header in front of goal as an Abdulshkor free kick loops between the Scottish heads.
88 – A Marshall header is cleared off the Saudi line after Al–Deayea is drawn disastrously out of position by a corner needlessly given away by Abdulshkor.
89 – Al–Reshoudi's free kick picks out Al–Rouahi on the edge of the six–yard box but the centre–forward lets the ball glance off his forehead and wide of goal.
2nd half of extra–time:
93 – Al–Shamrani crosses from the left and Al–Rouahi and Wills collide as they both go for the ball. It bobbles off Al–Rouahi into the net and the Saudis are perhaps a little unlucky to be refused a goal. Credit, however, to referee Escobar for making his decision quick and definite.
95 – Ah–Shamrani and Al–Hammali turn on some brilliant footwork to play Al–Rouahi clear on the left but from point–blank range he blazes hopelessly over the bar.
98 – Scotland bring on Murray for Downie.
99 – The Saudis bring on Al–Mosa for the limping Al–Rouahi.
Full extra time: Scotland 2, Saudi Arabia 2.

BRAVE SCOTS BEATEN IN PENALTY SHOOT–OUT

SCOTLAND won everything but the Cup at the dramatic and entertaining climax to the third world under–16 championship.

Having surprised even themselves by reaching the Final at Hampden, they threw away a two–goal lead.

But Saudi Arabia claimed the JVC–sponsored Cup deservedly. On the day they were the better team and no amount of whingeing about age and appearance and "streetwise tactics" could take that away from them.

Not only were they fitter and stronger, they were technically several classes superior to the Scots. Thus, when the Scots found themselves racked by physical fatigue, it was Saudi skill which proved the decisive force.

A pity the big guns of the London press were not present. A pity, too, that English parochialism had seen the schools' international against West Germany being staged at Wembley on the very day the under–16 finals began.

No wonder, then, that England were absent from this teenage summit of the game.

Yet the English could have taken a little credit. After the game the Saudi general manager, Abdullah Jasem, proudly recalled that Saudi soccer had been developing an organised approach to the game only in the last 20 years. He might also have mentioned that Jimmy Hill, no less, had helped develop the infrastructure on which this triumph was built.

Not that the Saudi victory owed anything to English–style football. The Brazilian influence was writ large on their game. Brazilian coach Ivo Wirtmann even had the young Saudis practising the Brazilian samba–rhythm formation "dancing" in their warm–up work.

Thus the Final presented an entertaining contrast in styles. Yet, if the Saudis had not been reduced to ten men by the expulsion of Al–Hamdi, it is unlikely that a penalty shoot–out would have been needed: the Saudis would have won the match all in good (extra) time.

There were features of the Scottish game which upset the Saudis. They looked vulnerable every time the Scots used a long throw–in to the penalty spot. The Saudis were also troubled by the direct pace of Scotland's forwards. The Saudi game is somewhat different, as they demonstrated on several occasions when their forwards appeared to want to walk the ball into the net rather than shoot.

We had been led to believe that this style went out of fashion with Hugo Meisl's Austrian Wunderteam in the 1930s!

Saudi Arabia missed their star defender, Fuad, who was suspended. In his absence the defenders developed a potentially suicial habit of stopping whenever anything went wrong.

That was a quirky habit which cost the Saudis the two first goals and could have cost them more.

Scotland had reached the Final with a little luck but that luck turned against them.

If Martin O'Neill had converted that second half penalty at 2–1 it might have been all over. Instead the Saudi midfield seized control with a maturity and fitness level which surprised the Scots.

Men against boys, as it were . . .

A FEW words in praise of Scottish football fans are demanded after the World Under–16 championship.

They turned out in their thousands in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Motherwell and Glasgow to watch, and enjoy, these (mostly) positive teenagers.

They also produced a 51,700 crowd for the Final at Hampden, which is rather more than the senior Scotland team managed to attract for the Rous Cup – the against Chile.

Credit to the fans, above all, for their behaviour. I travelled to Mount Florida (the Hampden station) on the railway 'special' from Glasgow Central.

The crowd packed into that train comprised an encouragingly predominant number of young people: both boys and girls, young men and young women.

They were excited and demonstrative; they were NOT loudly foul–mouthed or drunkenly intimidating.

This was an unusual match, of course. No club rivalry. But there was, after all, a mighty pro–Scottish fervour in the air.

And even though Scotland dropped a two–goal lead, the vast majority of those fans stayed on the Hampden terracing to applaud the Saudi lap of honour. Returning to town I was caught up in the train station columns. Shepherding the queues were the police. But...there was none of the belligerent antagonism evident south of the border both on behalf of the fans towards the police and on behalf of the police towards the fans.

In Glasgow the fans wanted to get home and the police wanted to see that they did so in an orderly manner which gave everyone the best chance of doing so just as quickly as possible. Ten out of ten for Scottish football.

KEIR RADNEDGE
The Editor

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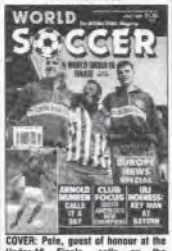

COVER: Pele, guest of honour at the Under-16 Finals, calls on the Australians.

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Also in this issue...

p7 "The most successful footballer of all time has retired," wrote Dutch correspondent Simon Kuper. "He is Arnold Muhren, late of Ajax, the only man ever to win all three European Cups as well as the European Championship. If the memories of these successes ever tire, the 38-year-old midfielder can think back on triumphs in the World Club Cup, the Super Cup, the Dutch Championship, the Dutch Cup and, with Manchester United, the FA Cup. The wonder is that he has remained so modest."

p20 Africa correspondent Mark Gleeson suggested that Mali's elimination of Morocco from the Nations Cup qualifiers "must rank among the biggest upsets in African football history".

p28-29 Colombian club Nacional of Medellin – who were backed by the Colombian armed forces and, some suggested, the drug barons – made history when, as Eric Weil reported, they "not only became the first Colombian team to win the Libertadores Cup, in it's 30th year, but they also became the first club to take the South American club trophy across the Andes", after beating Nacional of Paraguay in the Final.

p39 Jim Holden reported on how Denmark's Michael Laudrup was reviving the national team from a new position as an attacking playmaker. Laudrup had shone in a 6–0 win against Sweden and a 1–1 draw with England, where, as Holden commented, his "natural talent and close skill was apparent as he left Bryan Robson in his wake. Laudrup's feint persuaded Robson to jump for a chip. Before Robson had landed, Laudrup had taken the ball with his feet and was past him and weighing up the next set of options."

10 years ago

Chelsea and Manchester United were caught up in a row over the potential signing of John Obi Mikel from Norwegian club Lyn. Mikel was pictured in a United shirt and was due to join them the following January, but the transfer never took place as he opted to join the Blues instead.

20 years ago

After he had scored 21 goals in 41 league appearances for Tottenham Hotspur, German striker Jurgen Klinsmann upped sticks after just one season in English football and returned home to sign for Bundesliga side Bayern Munich.

30 years ago

Following a summer tour to the USA and Mexico – and a year before the 1986 World Cup in which he would finish as leading goalscorer – *World Soccer* claimed Gary Lineker "has yet to prove he has the technique required for the highest levels of the international game".

40 years ago

Dutch club PSV signed Nick Deacy from Hereford United, of the English third division, as an understudy to Swedish international Ralf Edstrom. The Welsh striker helped them win the 1978 UEFA Cup, coming on as sub in the second leg of the Final against Bastia.

50 years ago

Having been World Cup runners–up in 1962, Czechoslovakia, looked increasingly unlikely to qualify for the 1966 tournament in England. They lost their first two qualifiers, at home to Portugal and away to Romania, and sat joint bottom of their group with Turkey.

'Effort is non-negotiable'

His team's style of play may not be to everyone's taste but the driven Atletico Madrid coach has found success by doing things very much his own way

WORDS: Joel Richards

There is a single phrase that sums up Diego Simeone; one that condenses the philosophy and attitude that he brings to his teams and what he expects from his players. "Effort is non-negotiable".

While his career path and his teams reflect this maxim, there is also one single defining moment in his coaching career to date – and that is December 2011, when he took over at Atletico Madrid.

Up until then, his track record had been a sharp and unrelenting learning curve,

experimenting with style and formations at a dizzying number of clubs. Since then, it has been one of stability and unprecedented success.

"El Cholo" had always known that Atletico would come calling. He also knew that, when it happened, Atleti would more than likely be in trouble. And so it proved, taking over a side four points off the relegation zone and one that had been knocked out of the Spanish Cup by a team from the third tier. "When Cholo the coach arrived, everyone was thinking about Cholo the player," he wrote in his book *The Simeone Effect,* with his name conjuring up memories of the club's last league title, in 1996, when he formed a vital part of Atletico's midfield.

"Hopefully Simeone is here for a long time," said sporting director Jose Luis Caminero at the time of Simeone's arrival as coach. Four years on, he is the second most successful coach in the club's history.

Simeone has challenged Europe and Spain's big financial powers and proved it is possible to beat the Barcelona-Real

Thoughtful...before 2014 Champions League Final

Madrid hegemony. At times, some of his methods and style of play have not won admirers, but the scale of the achievement is such that Simeone is considered by many to be one of the top coaches in world football.

And yet, four years ago neither the club nor the coach offered a guarantee of success nor – crucially – of stability.

Simeone's CV before Atletico reads as a rapid-fire roll call of clubs. Bookended by spells at Racing Club – the Argentinian side he supported as a youngster and where he ended his playing career – he accrued experience with five different clubs in five years.

Simeone ended a long and successful career – with over 100 caps for Argentina and three World Cup finals – at Racing in 2006 and immediately took over as coach with the club facing relegation. Having lost his first game to Independiente in the Avellaneda derby – a game in which a young Sergio Aguero scored twice – it

Controversy...David Beckham is sent off for kicking out at Simeone during the England-Argentina 1998 World Cup clash

DIEGO PABLO SIMEONE

Age 45 (28.04.70)
Place of birth Buenos Aires, Argentina

PLAYING CAREER
Velez Sarsfield 1987-90
Pisa 1990-92
Sevilla 1992-94
Atletico Madrid 1994-97
Internzionale 1997-99
Lazio 1999-2003
Atletico Madrid 2003-05
Racing Club 2005-06
Argentina 1988-2002

COACHING CAREER
Racing Club 2006
Estudiantes 2006-07
River Plate 2007-08
San Lorenzo 2009-10
Catania 2011
Racing Club 2011
Atletico Madrid 2011-present

HONOURS
as a player
Argentina
Copa America: 1991, 1993
Confederations Cup: 1992
Atletico Madrid
La Liga: 1996
Spanish Cup: 1996
Internazionale
UEFA Cup: 1998
Lazio
UEFA Super Cup: 1999
Serie A: 2000
Italian Cup: 2000
Italian Super Cup: 2000
as a coach
Estudiantes
Argentinian Apertura: 2006
River Plate
Argentinian Clausura: 2008
Atletico Madrid
Europa League: 2012
UEFA Super Cup: 2012
La Liga: 2014
Spanish Cup: 2013
Spanish Super Cup: 2014

took him seven games to achieve a first win. But although he had been rushed into coaching, he had a clear vision of what he wanted from his teams from the outset.

"Above all, I want my team to have a style," he told Spanish sports newspaper *Marca* in 2006.

The style, and the ideas he had picked up as a player, were more modern and varied than those of the older generation of coaches in Argentina, many of whom were still entrenched in decade-old debates over how the game ought to be played. Yet for Simeone, it was quite simple: "The intelligent supporter is the one who does not obsess over whether the team plays well, but rather that the team wants to win."

While there is no single coach that he most clearly resembles, he has acknowledged such influences as the leadership of Daniel Passarella, the motivation of Alfio Basile, the competitiveness and reading of games of Carlos Bilardo, and Marcelo Bielsa's intensity and attention to training methods.

Comparisons with Bielsa grew in Argentina thanks to the intensity of his teams – not to mention the intensity of the coach himself on the sideline and his tactical preferences – but Simeone does not fit into the classic line of Bielsa disciples, who include such names as current Argentina and Chile coaches Gerardo Martino and Jorge Sampaoli. But the attention to detail, and the spirit and philosophy in which he speaks in public about his teams, as well as the expectations placed on his players, chimed with much of Bielsa's philosophy.

What Simeone's career showed, both before and after Atletico, is versatility given the available resources.

His first job after Racing was at Estudiantes, where he harnessed the recent return to the club of Juan Sebastian Veron alongside Rodrigo Brana in a dynamic midfield partnership. He also played two strikers, Jose Calderon and Mariano Pavone, in a move that reaped its rewards, and there is still graffiti to this day remembering the 7-0 win in the city derby against Gimnasia. There was also an epic title success that saw Estudiantes four points behind Boca with two games to play, before they drew level on points and won the title play-off.

It was Estudiantes' first championship in decades and Simeone's first taste of success, but he left for River Plate after just 16 months at the club.

"The collective effort is installed ahead of the individual," he said on arriving at the Monumental, where he experimented with formations far more than he had done at Estudiantes. Often choosing a 3-3-3-1 to

Success...lifting the 2012 Europa League trophy and celebrating a goal during his playing days for Atletico Madrid

> "The intelligent supporter is the one who does not obsess over whether the team plays well, but rather that the team wants to win"
>
> It's all about winning for Simeone

harness the talent of Ariel Ortega, he repeated his success at Estudiantes, winning the title with a team that included Colombia's Radamel Falcao and a young Chilean striker Alexis Sanchez.

The River Plate experience was also a learning curve. As Simeone still sought to attack and kill off games with a goal rather than closing up in defence, in the 2008 Libertadores Cup quarter-finals his side suffered a famous defeat by San Lorenzo, throwing away victory with a two-man advantage. And just months after winning the title, River ended the following season bottom of the table. Simeone left shortly before the end of that campaign, but he assumed responsibility.

The short season format in Argentina meant that River were not relegated, although that season was the first that ultimately condemned the club to relegation in 2011. But the structure of the game in his home country did magnify a feature of Simeone's early teams: it was all or nothing – first or last.

It was in part this experience, plus the subsequent clubs he coached, that shaped a more conservative and defensive Simeone. "I prefer to play well than to play attractively," he said after joining San Lorenzo, who were in disarray at the time. Although he would leave the club no higher than 17th in the table, he did start a process that would turn the club's fortunes around and lead to their first Libertadores Cup triumph.

His departure saw the media question whether he needed a break, with *La Nacion* pointing to the pace with which Simeone changed clubs and suggesting that "Mr Vertigo needs a rest".

Simeone, however, had no intention of stopping. "I haven't come here hoping to stay in Europe for 10 years," he said on taking over Catania in Italy. "I came here looking to grow."

With a squad containing 12 Argentinian players his mission to avoid relegation was accomplished and he would later look back on the Catania experience as a defining one, saying: "At first I always wanted to attack. With time I learnt the best ways to think how to win is in your defensive balance."

This more defensive Simeone was clear to see when he returned to Racing, with critics despairing at his conservative approach despite having the attacking talents of Colombian pair, forward Teofilo Gutierrez and playmaker Gio Moreno, at his disposal.

His frenetic, constant changing of clubs during this period was mirrored by Atletico Madrid's approach to coaches and in the five years before Simeone's appointment five came and went: Javier Aguirre, Abel Resino, Santi Denia, Quique Sanchez Flores and Gregorio Manzano.

By the time Atletico came calling,

Winner...with striker Jose Calderon after Estudiantes clinched the Argentinian title

In charge...giving the orders to Guiseppe Mascara while coach of Catania

Siemone had settled on a style that was an ideal for the club's history: uncompromising, committed, tough, and direct. He was meticulous and would seek every advantage possible. This ranged from checking the horoscopes of potential transfer targets to fighting to make sure Atletico had the same number of ball boys in the Spanish Cup Final against Real Madrid when the Bernabeu was selected as the host stadium.

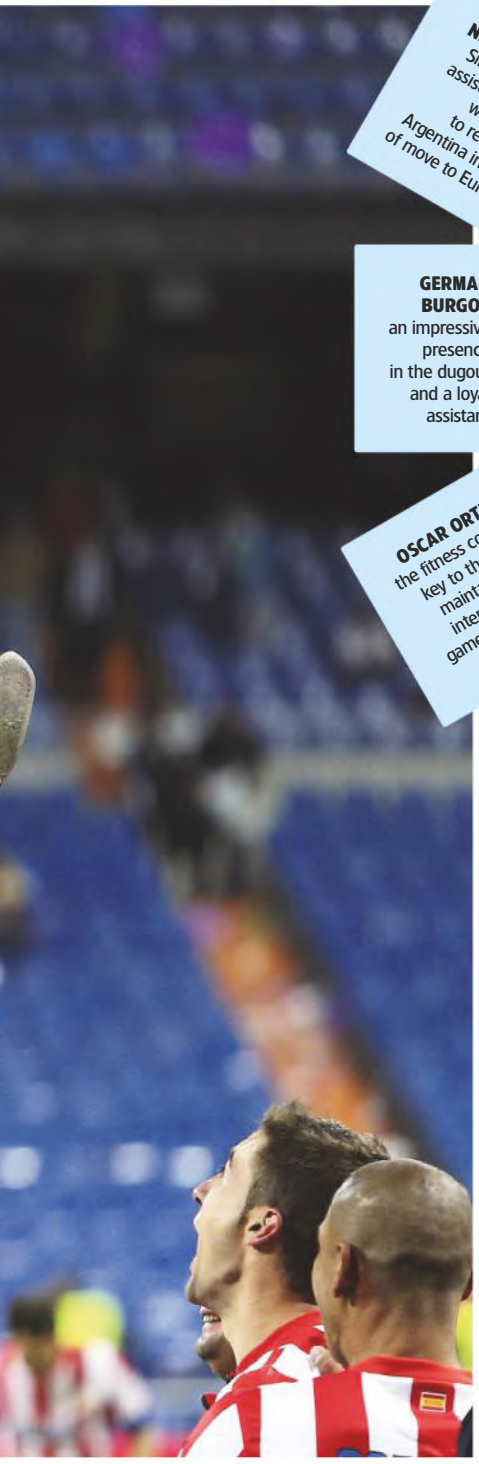
"We want a team with commitment," he said of his plans for Atletico. "One that plays, runs, trains, respects the rival, and understands the intelligence in the game."

And his blueprint gave spectacular results. He took over with Atletico 10th in the table, but just four points off the relegation zone. Within five months they ended the season fifth and won the Europa League, beating Athletic Bilbao and his former international coach Bielsa in the Final.

Then came the European Super Cup, then the Spanish Cup, then the league title and then the Spanish Super Cup. Five trophies put Simeone behind only Luis Aragones as the most successful coach in the club's history.

Much of Simeone's success as a coach has been down to his ability to get the best

Flare up...taking issue with referee Bjorn Kuipers during the Champions League Final defeat by Real Madrid



DIEGO SIMEONE

Circle of influence

King of Madrid... Hurled in the air after Atletico beat Real Madrid in the Bernabeu to win the 2013 Spanish Cup

out of his players. Falcao excelled under him at both River and in Spain, while Juanfran, Antoine Griezmann and Koke have all improved at Atletico in terms of performance levels.

Yet he also does not look to improve players' weaknesses, explaining that "a player must play the way he knows best and that way he will believe he is better than he is". He also insists on building team camaraderie without forcing the issue. So, for example, at meal times he wants his squad sitting at one vast table "face to face", rather than divided into groups on smaller tables. His management has not only brought out the best in his established players, but also helped youngsters to break through. Luciano Vietto, who he recently signed for Atletico, was given his first-team debut by Simeone.

Having signed a new contract that runs until 2020, Simeone has given a clear indication to his players that he has little reason to leave Atletico. "Only Bayern, Real Madrid, Chelsea and Barcelona are better than us," he told Argentinian television recently.

But Simeone is conditioned by Atletico's resources, which are not in the same category as those clubs he mentions. Internazionale and Lazio are among those who are likely to come calling at some point, and he is also taking English classes.

"I want to coach until I am 65," he told *El Grafico* when asked about the national team job.

"And if that happens when I am 60, then great." WS

> "A player must play the way he knows best and that way he will believe he is better than he is"
>
> **Simeone's way of getting the best from his players**

On parade... celebrating Atletico's 2014 title triumph

TOMORROW'S STARS TODAY

Talentscout

EURO UNDER-21s

WORDS: Nick Bidwell

Jan KLIMENT

Striker, 21 (01.09.93), Czech Republic & Stuttgart (Ger)

In a sentence
June 2015 was a career-defining month for the striker, who scooped the top scorer award at the Euro Under-21s – his hat-trick in the 4-0 win against Serbia was his entire goal haul – and earned a move from Vysocina Jihlava in his homeland to Stuttgart. Not bad for someone who probably would not have made the Czech squad this summer if Watford had not prevented Matej Vydra from taking part.

What they say
"Selecting Kliment was a brilliant move by coach [Jakub] Dovalil," declares Czech all-time midfield great Pavel Nedved. "His agent told me he had talent, though I have to admit I didn't really know too much about him until now. He looked very sharp and hungry." Czech under 21 defender Tomas Kalas adds: "Above all else, Jan is modest, humble and reserved. He came ready to play, and when his chance came he grabbed it. He plays with his head, he likes to work hard."

The story so far
Born in the Slovak town of Myjava, in the foothills of the Carpathian mountains, he was just a toddler when his family moved to Jihlava in the Czech Republic. Not long after starting primary school he joined the local club, Vysocina, and made his first-team debut at the age of 18 in a second division game against Caslavi in March 2012. Capped by the Czechs at under-19 and under-20 level, he did not do himself justice during a six-month loan spell at Slovak top-flight side Dukla Banska Bystrica. However, he sharpened up his act on returning to Vysocina and towards the end of last season forced his way into the under-21 set-up, marking his debut with a goal and an assist against Ukraine in a Euro championship warm-up.

> "He came ready to play, and when his chance came he grabbed it"
> Czech team-mate Tomas Kalas

The next step
Rumoured to have chosen Stuttgart ahead of several other German clubs and Ajax, his decision to sign a four-year deal with the Swabians will have puzzled many. Stuttgart avoided relegation by the skin of their teeth last term and, with their poor results and financial woes, have become something of a byword for instability. The big question is will they have the patience to allow him to develop at his own pace?

3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT KLIMENT

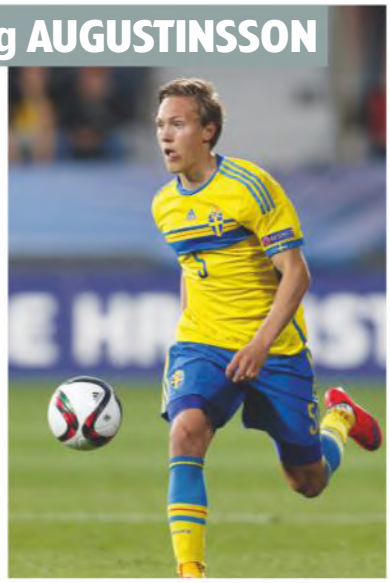
- Apart from his triple against Serbia in the Euros, his only other career hat-trick was in a second round Czech Cup tie two years ago.
- He has scored only three top-flight goals during his whole career so far.
- A tradition when representing the Czech Republic, he had to buy something for his team-mates after his first goal for the under-21 side.

Impact...on his way to a hat-trick against Serbia

Strengths
For the under-21s he was an excellent leader of the line, quick, mobile, strong with either foot, robust and adept at playing on the shoulder of the last defender. He has plenty of experience playing as a right-winger and is especially dangerous when cutting inside. Possesses a fearsome shot from distance.

Weaknesses
His role at Vysocina was often that of the impact substitute and he still has to prove himself as a 90-minute, domestic league performer. He must become more clinical in front of goal as he is prone to snatching at chances.

Ludwig AUGUSTINSSON



Defender, 21 (21.04.94), Sweden & Copenhagen (Den)
The left-back was an ever-present at the finals, pushing forward with elan while watchful and rugged in his defensive duties. Scored his penalty in the Final shoot-out. With Swedish sides Brommapojkarna and IFK before moving to Denmark last summer.

Marco BENASSI

Midfielder, 20 (08.09.94), Italy & Torino
Was a member of the Internazionale junior side that won the NextGen series three years ago. And on the evidence of his two goals in the 3-1 victory over England, he has lost none of the flair that marked him out as one to watch. A complete midfield operator, he has good technique, vision, stamina and tactical awareness.

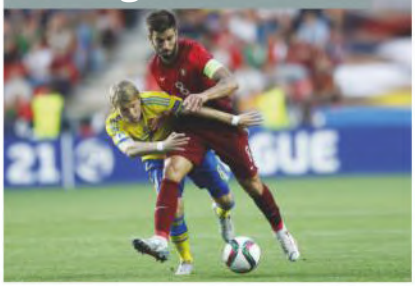
Raphael GUERREIRO

Defender, 21 (22.12.93), Portugal & Lorient (Fra)
Breton club Lorient polished uncut diamonds such as Yoann Gourcuff, Laurent Koscielny, Andre-Pierre Gignac and Kevin Gameiro – and in the Portugal left-back they have another jewel. Blessed with tremendous pace, sumptuous ability and gritty desire.

Ruben LOFTUS-CHEEK

Midfielder, 19 (23.01.96), England & Chelsea
Although only in action for 44 minutes – as a substitute in both the 1-0 victory over Sweden and 3-1 loss to Italy – he still impressed. In only his second and third appearances for the team, his composure, elegance, imposing physique and athleticism were there for all to see.

Sergio OLIVEIRA



Midfielder, 23 (02.06.92), Portugal & Porto
A member of the under-20 side that came second at the World Championship in 2011, Portugal's box-to-box captain once again had to make do with silver, but throughout the tournament his creativity, support play and aerial ability were all of the highest order. Under contract with Porto until 2020 – with a release clause of some €30million.

Pione SISTO

Midfielder, 20 (04.02.95), Denmark & Midtjylland
Despite starting only one match and mainly being used as an impact sub, the Uganda-born left-winger certainly did not waste his time. His late winner against the Czechs was worth its weight in gold. Recently helped unsung Midtjylland to their first Superliga title.

Simon TIBBLING

Midfielder, 20 (07.09.94), Sweden & Groningen (Hol)
An adolescent freestyler who a few years ago would thrill fans at Stockholm's Rasunda stadium with party-piece tricks before a big game. Made an equally eye-catching contribution to Sweden's stunning triumph, with goals against Portugal and Denmark. Normally a defensive midfielder, he provided substance, energy and desire on either flank.

Amin YOUNES

Midfielder, 21 (06.08.93), Germany & Borussia Monchengladbach
Not consistency personified, but the German winger with Lebanese roots was one of the most skilful and elusive performers at the finals. The problem is some club coches regard him as a luxury.

Talentscout

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

WORDS: Nick Bidwell

Adam TRAORE

Striker, 19 (28.06.95), Mali & Lille (Fra)

In a sentence
Gifted, quick-thinking central midfielder, whose four goals, three assists and ability to rhythmically link the play underpinned Mali's surprise bronze medal in New Zealand. He deservedly scooped the Golden Ball as the most impressive individual at the tournament.

What they say
"He's very much a boy on the up," according to former Lille boss, Rene Girard, his first coach in the professional game. "He has the technique, the vision, the punch and the freshness. His attitude was excellent too. I wouldn't say he was unassuming, but he is very calm and composed on the pitch. He's one of those remarkably mature youngsters, who can lead, who can set the example."

The story so far
Born and brought up in the Mali capital of Bamako, he came up through the ranks of the local JMG football academy, the school set up in 2006 by former French international midfielder Jean-Marc Guillou. A pupil at the academy from the age of 12 to 18, he then had a short spell at top-flight Malian club Bakaridjan before moving to Lille in 2014. He was immediately sent on loan for six months to Belgian affiliate Mouscron, but within a few weeks of returning he was handed his Ligue 1 debut, against Nice in September, and was an automatic pick by the second half of the season. Won his first senior cap for Mali in a friendly against Ghana in March.

3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT TRAORE

- His nickname is "Noss", the nom de plume for everyone called Adama in Mali.
- Lille would not allow him to play in this year's African Under-20 Championship, prompting much angst in Bamako.
- He is the second Malian to win the Golden Boot at a World Under-20 finals, following in the 1999 footsteps of Seydou Keita.

The next step
With his reputation greatly enhanced by his exploits this summer, he was rumoured to be a target for several top English sides but he now seems all set to join Monaco. Despite his limited experience – he has made just 20 Ligue 1 appearances – he has huge potential and could be the long-term replacement for Portuguese schemer Joao Moutinho at the Stade Louis II.

Strengths
Outstanding as a number 10 or in a box-to-box role, his strong suits are his range of passing, flair for dictating the tempo, technical mastery and crafty dribbling in wide areas. Has a great left foot, but can deliver with the right too.

Weaknesses
More than a little lightweight when challenging for the ball, he can often appear ungainly. A total of two goals last season for Lille suggests he needs to work on his finishing.

DANILO

Midfielder, 19 (28.02.96), Brazil & Braga (Por)
A recipient of silver in both the team classification and player of the tournament category, the *Selecao* captain and defensive midfielder was the personification of desire. He covered and tackled with intensity, passed the ball with quality and pushed forward with power. A true force of nature who quit Vasco da Gama for Europe last summer.

Predrag RAJKOVIC

Goalkeeper, 19 (31.10.95), Serbia & Red Star Belgrade
Two years after helping Serbia under-19s claim the European title, he enjoyed an equally rewarding tournament in New Zealand as captain, conceding just four goals in seven games as the Serbs struck gold. Rightly voted the best keeper on show, he made vital saves at key moments and dominated his area.

Gabriel JESUS

Striker, 18 (03.04.97), Brazil & Palmeiras
While the comparisons with Neymar are somewhat premature, the right-sided attacker was the youngest member of the Brazilian squad and undoubtedly shone in New Zealand. Superb on the ball, pacy, adept at playing with his back to goal and very industrious, he has scored a hatful of goals in the Palmeiras youth ranks and recently made his first-team debut.

Emerson HYNDMAN

Midfielder, 19 (09.04.96), USA & Fulham (Eng)
Despite missing a penalty in the loss to Ukraine, the US captain was a huge success, intelligently pulling the strings in the engine room, scoring twice and setting the tone with his work ethic. A first-teamer in the English second tier with Fulham, the Texan has already featured for the senior US side, making his debut against the Czech Republic last year.

Hany MUKHTAR

Midfielder, 20 (21.03.95), Germany & Benfica (Por)
Elimination in the quarter-finals represented palpable failure for Germany, but at least they were able to showcase the multiple assets of their captain and attacking midfielder. The Berlin-born son of a German mother and Sudanese father displayed a smooth touch and scored four times. He spent a dozen years at Hertha Berlin prior to moving to Portugal this year.

Andrija ZIVKOVIC

Midfielder, 18 (11.07.96), Serbia & Partizan Belgrade
Small of stature but gargantuan in ability, the right-winger was Serbia's creative hub, ever alert and imaginative. The free-kick he scored against Mexico was Goal of the Tournament and in the Final versus Brazil he was again decisive, setting up Nemanja Maksimovic's extra-time winner. Capped twice at full level, he became Partizan's youngest captain in March 2014, leading the team out aged just 17 years and seven months.

Mamadou THIAM

Striker, 20 (20.03.95), Senegal & Dijon (Fra)
Not since Ghana in 1993 has a country marked its first appearance in the World Under-20 finals by reaching the last-four, and the Paris-born attacker was as influential as any of Senegal's young Lions. He scored a fine solo goal in the 1-1 draw against Colombia and got the winner against Uzbekistan. His father, Pape Idrissa Thiam, played for Senegal and grandfather Abdoulaye Thiam coached the national team in the 1960s.

Viktor KOVALENKO

Midfielder, 19, (14.02.96), Ukraine & Shakhtar Donetsk
A thorn in opposition flesh throughout, thanks to his ability to make space for himself in the box and cool finishing, he not only scored five times to end up as the tournament's top scorer, he also set up two others. Proof that Shakhtar are not solely interested in signing Brazilians and that they can also produce their own talent.

Facetoface

MICHEL PLATINI

"The time has gone when football could exist above the rules of life. It's finished"

The UEFA president reflects on recent events in the game – both on and off the pitch

Are you tired of always handing the trophies to Spanish clubs?
No, because the Champions League is a very difficult competition and because no one had won the trophy two years in a row – which is different to what happened before with Ajax, with Bayern, with Liverpool. I always respect whoever wins the Champions League because it is a tough season. When I was a player we had important games from the quarter-finals: we had two quarter-finals, two semi-finals and the Final. Then there was a cup. Now you begin good games in September. September! You already have good games where you have to win, but I think I always will give the cup to the team who deserve to be the winners.

Do any particular moments stand out from last season?
As president I don't care because the games are beautiful. As Michel Platini, former player of Juventus, I give the cup to Milan, to Inter, and I would have been happy to give it to a small Italian team from Piedmont, but it was not possible because Barcelona played very well.

Did you have much chance to enjoy the Euro Under-21s in the Czech Republic?
I saw some games but I know more about the Champions League players than the younger ones. I will know them in a few years when they will be stars. In the Final we had Sweden and Portugal, two different teams, so it's good.

Were you surprised by Germany's 5-0 defeat in the Euro Under-21 semi-finals by Portugal?
You can be surprised that Germany won 7-1 in Brazil in the semi-final of the World Cup. Everything is possible in football. That is the beauty of the game because it's unpredictable. You can never think they will win 7-1 in Brazil or lose 5-0 against Portugal in the Euro Under-21s. It's why we come to see the game and why we fight against match fixing because everyone knows that it was not a fixed game. Football is the only game where you never know who will win.

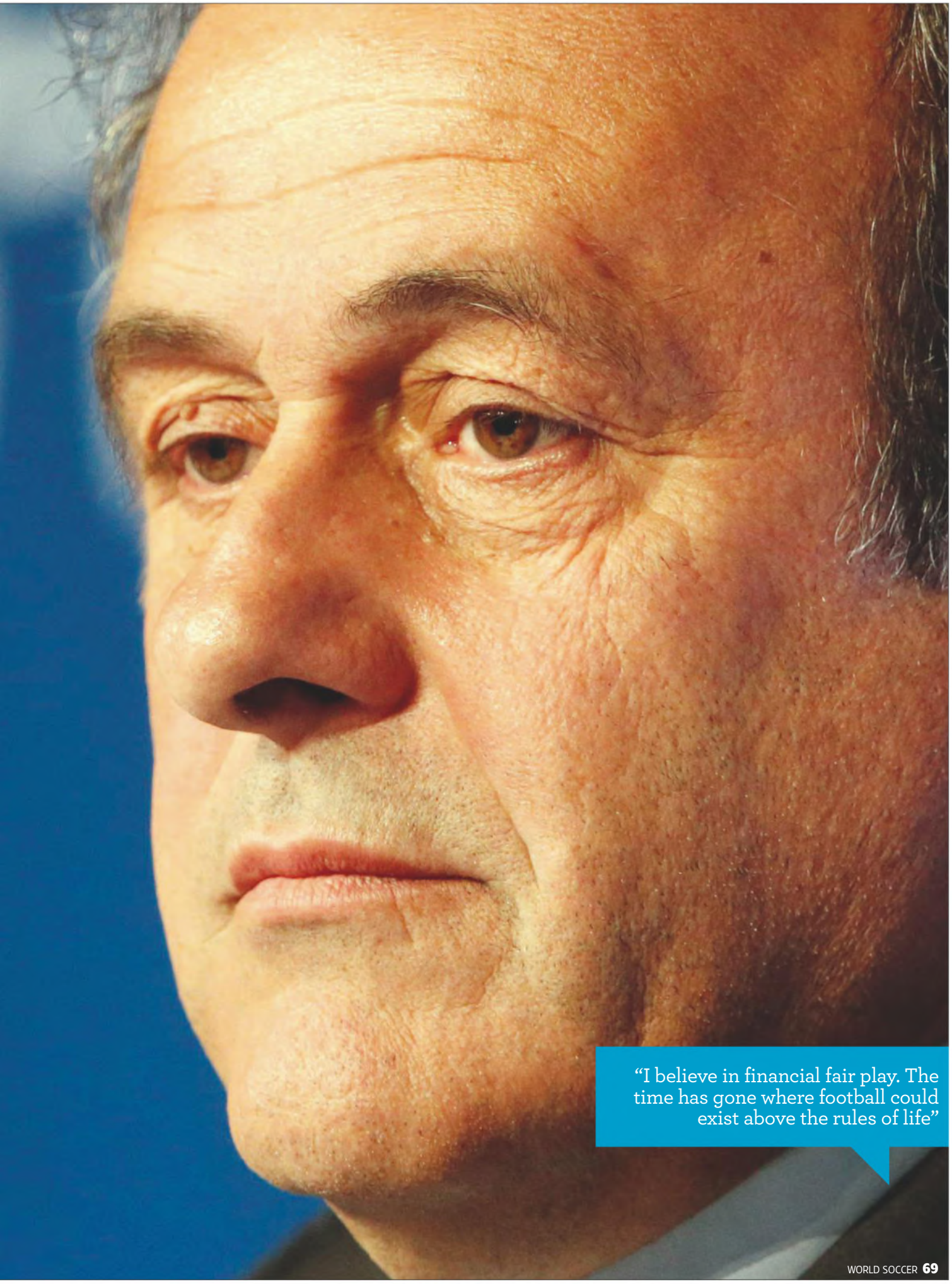
Did you follow the Women's World Cup, with two European teams in the semi-finals?
I saw a beautiful game, Germany v France. Unfortunately we lost. We didn't deserve to but it was a beautiful game and women's football is increasing a lot and we continue to develop our work with it in UEFA. The problem for women's football is that there is not a financial context as in the men's game. The women would like to have the same competitions as the men but there is not the same money. This is why we have to go slowly with the development of the competitions, not the development of the women's game. For some years I have said: "Don't ask me to bring professional players in because you have not the money to pay – unless we work through the professional clubs." You could have a situation where clubs from the Premier League have a women's team and they can give 10 per cent of the budget to the development of the women's teams. That could be easier, but I am not sure that will work everywhere.

Is it possible to bring full-time professionalism into women's football?
Professionalism is because of the money, not because that they want to be professional. The difficulty is that for UEFA it is a matter of the national associations, the leagues, the clubs. It's more national than international.

In Germany, the Women's World Cup drew more TV spectators than the Euro Under-21s. Did that surprise you?
No, they love women's football in Germany. As for the under-21s, there are some decisions to take in the future about what could happen with the competition because it's not a youth tournament when you are 21 and, by the finals, when they play they are 23. It's an inbetween competition. Some players are 23 but I had won 20 caps for the French national team when I was 23. What happened a long time ago was that the education of the players was done by the national associations so we created competitions to develop the players. But, back then, at 17 or 18, they had not been in a professional club since 12 or 13 as they are now. That means that the development of young players is very different. Now, when they are 18, it's almost as if they have been professional players for six years. When I was 18 I had just arrived in the professional league. That means a big change so, for me, these competitions like the under-21s are a little bit strange today. A long time ago it was OK to use this sort of competition to develop the players, but players at 23 nowadays are developed because they have begun working in a Barcelona or Chelsea or Bayern at the age of 12. It is an issue for reflection.

What about the Olympic tournament?
It creates some problems for the clubs but all the players love to participate in the Olympic Games and the clubs know that the release of the players is a little complicated.

Do you see a difference between the Barcelona of Pep Guardiola and that of Luis Enrique?
Of course, a lot of difference. Who was the forward of the team of Pep? When I saw them beat Santos in Tokyo, when they won 4-0, there was no forward. There was Messi and Fabregas, there was total [movement]. Now ➤



"I believe in financial fair play. The time has gone where football could exist above the rules of life"

Last year...handing Cristiano Ronaldo the 2014 Best Player in Europe award

we have three forwards: Messi, Suarez and Neymar. That's totally different. How did Barcelona win the last Champions League? Counter-attack. That didn't happen some years ago. This shows you have to adapt your team to respect your players. When you have Messi, Neymar and Suarez you play differently to when you have other players.

Do you have a preference?
No. I enjoy watching the players. To make these choices is the job of journalists, not mine. I look at the security of the stadium, I look to see that the referee doesn't make a mistake and I look to see players playing well.

The Barcelona of Guardiola or Luis Enrique: who would have been the better coach for you as a player?
Look where Messi played before and where he plays now. It's two different styles. Now he plays on the right but before, when he began, he played on the left, then he played more central. Players change and the coach is not stupid. Does the coach say: "I play like that because I want to"? No, it's because he has players who play like that. For example, Barcelona won the Champions League Final when Juventus thought to win the game. They played like Italians at the end and won by playing on the counter attack. When Juventus started thinking they could win, they lost – because Barcelona have three fantastic players who can score when they want.

Is Barcelona's attack the best of this era?
For the moment, yes, because they won the Champions League. But last year it was Ronaldo, Benzema and Bale. Things can change with every game.

How do you view the Best Player in Europe award?
It was important that we had a European prize and it was nice to be linked with ESM because you represent journalists from most of Europe and come together to vote on who can be the best players. I wanted it to be a real vote, so thank you to ESM for organising this. I think it's a nice opportunity for everybody to promote not only the best player but also the magazines who work for the beauty of football. It's nice that we are together and I am very proud and thank you for the collaboration because I think it was a good idea and is still a good idea. As to how I see this past season I can say that the football played out on the pitch is very good.

• The initial shortlist for UEFA's Best Player in Europe award will be announced on July 15. A second shortlist of three will then be drawn up, from which the final vote will take place on August 27.

Has football become much faster in the last 10 years?
Do you think Messi is faster than 10 years ago? Do you think Ronaldo is faster than 10 years ago? I don't think players are faster than 10 or 20 years ago. The fact that the game is more protected by the referee, you have balls around the pitch, the goalkeeper can't pick up a back pass – it makes the game automatically more intensive. It's not a question of the players. I'm not sure that a player today is going quicker than a player 30 years ago but the way that teams play is automatically faster. Perhaps the players are more physically prepared than 20 years ago but the ball is always the most important factor. As my father always told me: "Michel, the ball will always run more quickly than you."

Why have Ronaldo and Messi been able to keep scoring so many goals for so long?
It's just because they are incredible and there is a team who play for them. It was the same with Ronaldo, the Brazilian, in the past, and with many other players. In a great team you always have a great player – and the great player has become great because he has a great team. It was the same with Ajax, in the case of Johan Cruyff who made the difference for them, but who needed a good team around him to do that. It's a collective game.

So why have we never seen players scoring goals like Ronaldo and Messi before in modern times?
Take Hugo Sanchez at Real Madrid in the 1980s; how many goals did he score in his best season? 38. He did not have the same team around him because the budget of Real Madrid was not the same as it is now with Roaldo and Benzema – or the budget of today's Barcelona, who have not only Messi but Neymar and Suarez.

Isn't it also true that the transfer rules were different then?
Now, with the Bosman rule, you can have all

the best players in the same team. In the past, in Spain, you had Real Madrid, Atletico, Barcelona, Valencia – a lot of teams – and all the players were in different teams. Now, more or less, the best players are in one or two clubs. It is not football but Bosman which changed things.

Does this make it more difficult to promote national team football when high-level club football is so strong?
We are promoting national team football through the Euro qualifiers and it will be more and more important because people like the national teams. What is important in the future is to limit the possibility to have the best players in one team or in two teams. That is important for competition. If everybody is in one team that is not so good and with the Bosman rule it was difficult at the beginning but people know that now. I support totally the agenda that says we need more home-grown players because it is not possible to fight on nationality but we have some meetings in September with Jean-Claude Junker and the European Commission to work on that. It is not possible that the best teams should have all the best players or competition itself is finished. At the moment you have big clubs with a lot of money who can have everybody. We have to think about football in all of Europe not only in two or three clubs.

Do you think this one of the achievements of financial fairplay?
The clubs asked me to do something because they cannot continue to pay this and because of the debts and the losses – we had a total of €1.7billion – so we had to do something and we have done something. I think the principle is working very well. Of course one or two clubs are not so happy but, against that, thousands of clubs are happy.

The president of the Spanish league is opposed to the ban on third-party ownership because the smaller clubs think it is the only way they can compete with Real Madrid and Barcelona...

The best... Messi (left) and Ronaldo

Third-party ownership is finished, it is forbidden by FIFA. The president of the Spanish league can do what he wants but it is forbidden by FIFA. He can go in front of the court. It is good that it is forbidden. TPO transfers money of the clubs into the money of individuals so the clubs stay poor and the individuals become richer. For example, how much money went from Barcelona to Santos for Neymar? €90m they said, but how much of that went to Santos? TPO takes the money from football. It goes to some offshore company. Then the players can't decide anything for themselves because they become a product. I went on strike when I was young in support of a player being free at the end of his contract to go where he wants. Now the players belong to companies which make the decisions. To my way of thinking, it's a scandal. We have to fight them. They can go to court. but the moral high ground is mine. That the player should belong to some "fund" is a scandal. I understand the problem because it's a business. The transfer system is not being used to improve teams but to take money out of football. That's why TPO is a scandal. People can say what they want. The moral high ground is not theirs. It could be they go to court so then a judge can decides whether TPO should be shown a red card or a yellow card.

Are you convinced that financial fairplay stands up legally?
Yes. I believe in it. Which company with €1.7bn losses every year can survive in the world? One day it will explode. The time has gone when football could exist above the rules of life. It's finished. We had to do something otherwise there is an explosion. In creating FFP I protect the clubs, I protect the football, because with the losses there were we had to do something. When we have resolved the problem of the losses maybe we can work on investment. But it was my job to do that. Look how many clubs we have lost in the past years.

Isn't it also a case that securing club finances can help make players less vulnerable to match fixing?
Of course. It's a question of ethics. It was my job as president to think about that. When you have the moral high ground and ethics on your side it's always good and when you can look at yourself in the mirror it's always good. I am a guy of conviction and I will always defend and fight out of conviction not for politics because I think what I do and then I do what I think.

How do you feel about the fact that some countries are starting to introduce their own FFP rules and we have seen clubs relegated in Spain for not paying their taxes?
A lot of countries in the world are aware of the rules and now it's becoming complicated because you see what's happened in Brazil, in Spain, in Argentina. We have to find a solution so that the money stays in football. How can clubs sign thousands of players without money?

Is this a delicate time for you within FIFA?
Not for me personally but we all have a big problem - you, me, everybody - about FIFA. We are all FIFA. It's a problem for all the players of the world because our "mother house" has a big problem and we have to defend this house. The problem of FIFA is not a problem about football because you have good competitions. It's a problem of corruption. We will see. There is a meeting coming up. Wait and see what will happen. I stress it's not a problem of football, it's a problem of corruption of some people. Look, you cannot mix it up with the FIFA administration of competitions that are working, that are going on. FIFA has done a lot of good things, there are good ideas and good jobs, there are so many good things but it is a problem of people and the money. Let the police do their job. You know better than me many times. I look in the newspapers to see what's happened. As for the future, we'll see. I don't know. Well, I do know, but I can't tell you!

Interview by Keir Radnedge

Considered...Platini (right) listens as president Sepp Blatter addresses FIFA

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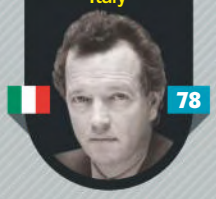

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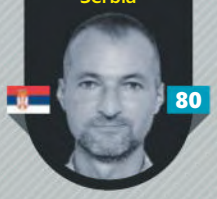
VLADIMIR NOVAK — Serbia



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KEIR RADNEDGE — Euro Under-21s

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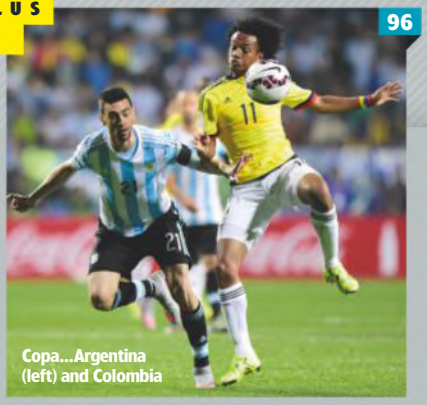
PLUS



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Copa...Argentina (left) and Colombia

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CLUB FOOTBALL

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Hat-trick hero...Lewandowski of Poland

Women's World Cup

CHRISTIAN RADNEDGE

Lloyd treble for Stars & Stripes

US win record-breaking third tournament

Following in the footsteps of England's Geoff Hurst in 1966, Carli Lloyd became only the second person to score a hat-trick in the Final of a senior World Cup showpiece as the USA ended 16 years of hurt to reclaim the women's title for a record third time with a 5-2 victory over holders Japan.

It was a fitting finale for the United States' veteran striker Abby Wambach who, at the age of 35, now has a World Cup winners medal to go with her two Olympic golds and the 2012 FIFA World Player of the Year award.

At the Final, the 53,341 fans inside Vancouver's BC Place were not slow to voice their disapproval of the visiting dignitaries, with the crowd booing the introduction of Issa Hayatou. The FIFA vice-president had to present the trophy in the absence of president Sepp Blatter, who left it until just a few days before the game to announce he would not attend due to pressing business back in Zurich. Secretary-general Jerome Valcke was another who stayed away, having originally been meant to attend the tournament's opening game.

> "The line-up sucks, the subs are sketchy, we're not all on the same page"
>
> Two-time world champion Michelle Akers criticises US coach Jill Ellis

For many, the ease with which Jill Ellis' side dispatched Japan in the Final was remarkably straightforward after a slow start to the tournament.

The US had kicked off their campaign with a 3-1 victory over Australia which, although a convincing scoreline, was littered with mistakes and it took a late goal by Alex Morgan to give the result a flattering edge.

Ellis had taken over as coach in May last year after Tom Sermanni was fired following the team's poorest ever showing at the Algarve Cup, finishing seventh. Yet despite her 14 years as assistant coach and scout for the national team, not everyone was overly sold on Ellis' appointment. Questions were asked over tactics and selections before the squad went to Canada, and after a drab goalless draw with Sweden they only managed to finish top of their group on goal difference, courtesy of Wambach's goal in a narrow 1-0 win over Nigeria.

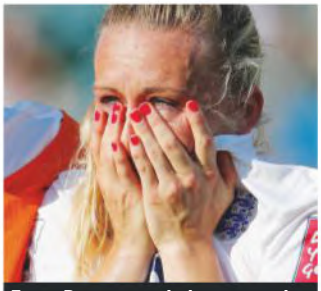
Even after a second round 2-0 win against Colombia, the coach's critics remained unimpressed, with two-time world champion Michelle Akers going on American radio to say: "[Ellis] is not handling the personnel right. The line-up sucks, the subs are sketchy, we're not all on the same page."

After another single-goal success, against China in the quarter-finals, the US met pre-tournament favourites Germany for a place in the Final.

A 10-0 victory over the Ivory Coast in their opening game had seen Germany ease their way into the knockout stage – and helped Celia Sasic finish joint top scorer with Lloyd on six goals. And after beating Sweden 4-1, they had a mouth-watering quarter-final clash with France, who overcame South Korea 3-0.

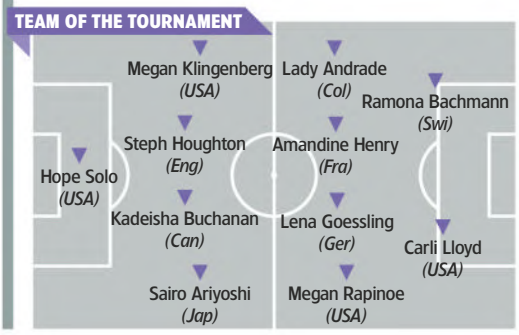
However, the manipulation of the draw to set up a highly desirable knockout tie for the spectators was criticised by the players. After losing on penalties to the

Review



Tears...Bassett scored a late own goal

TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT



Third time lucky...USA claim the trophy once again

Germans after a 1-1 draw, France midfielder Camille Abily told *L'Equipe*: "FIFA did not conduct a real draw. Why don't we do [the draw] like the boys? At some point they have to stop taking us for idiots."

An impressive 2-0 semi-final victory over Germany set-up the Final showdown with defending champions Japan, who beat England 2-1.

England's first appearance in a Women's World Cup semi-final ended in cruel circumstances, with Laura Bassett's own goal in the penultimate minute of stoppage time, but they had performed with admirable spirit, battling through to the last four with several late goals

Hat-trick...Carli Lloyd scored three goals in 16 minutes in the Final

HOPE TOP KEEPER

US keeper Hope Solo won the Golden Glove award at the end of the tournament, but the 33-year-old kept a low profile throughout the tournament. This was most likely to do with questions from the media over whether she should have been in the team or not, due to continuing court action after her arrest last year for alleged assault in an altercation with her sister and nephew.

Top keeper...Solo won the Golden Glove

TOURNAMENT AWARDS

GOLDEN BALL BEST PLAYER AWARD
Carli Lloyd *(USA)*

SILVER BALL AWARD
Amandine Henry *(Fra)*

BRONZE BALL AWARD
Aya Miyama *(Jap)*

Award...Sasic scored six goals

GOLDEN BOOT
Celia Sasic *(Ger)*
6 goals, 1 assist, 553 minutes

GOLDEN GLOVE
Hope Solo *(USA)*

BEST YOUNG PLAYER AWARD
Kadeisha Buchanan *(Can)*

FIFA FAIR PLAY TROPHY
France

> "At some point they have to stop taking us for idiots"
>
> France's Camille Abily on the way FIFA conducted the draw

and an ever-changing line-up. Their 2-1 victory over Canada in the quarter-finals drew a record crowd of 54,027 to BC Place.

Among the other records to be set over the four weeks was the total aggregate attendance for the tournament of 1.35 million, and that total would surely have been even higher had the hosts not lost to England at the quarter-final stage.

Fox Sports had 25.4million viewers tune in for the Final: a record for any soccer game, men's or women's, shown on English-language TV in the US. Meanwhile, broadcasters in Australia, Brazil, China, South Korea and Norway all beat the highest TV audience for any match in the 2011 edition.

The bar, then, has been set high for the next finals, in France in 2019, with organisers looking to raise the standard even higher. For starters they will surely find it easier to acquire the maximum of six national sponsors given their event-hosting experience: Canada managed to secure only three.

France has also pledged that all matches will be played on real grass, highlighting the one issue that never

Support...games set record attendance and TV figures

went away during Canada 2015.

Despite the promise of the highest quality turf, there were noticeable changes in games where either the pitch had not been watered enough or that it had been watered too much, with either scenario drastically affecting the way the ball plays on 3G grass.

The turf at BC Place had only been laid in May, giving it a very short window to be "worn in" for the tournament.

The Players' union, FIFPro, held a press conference in Vancouver two days before the Final to say it regretted joining a failed lawsuit too late last year challenging the decision to play on artificial turf. FIFPro head Theo Van Seggelen pledged, however, that no future tournament would be played on fake grass saying: "As long as FIFPro is around, men will not play a World Cup on artificial turf and the same will be for women from here on."

Tatjana Haenni, FIFA's head of women's football, said that there had been a number of working groups at each stadium analysing the matches on the turf and that their conclusions would be presented along with a survey taken from the players and coaches with their feedback on it.

Wambach, who played in Canada for the last time in a World Cup, was one of the fiercest critics of the decision to play on artificial turf, saying: "This would never happen to the men". WS

JUNE 9 - JULY 5, 2015

Global diary

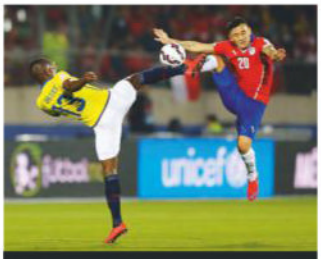
A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Tuesday June 9

BRAZIL: Oswaldo De Oliveira of Palmeiras becomes the eighth coaching casualty in the first six games of the season.
ITALY: After a goalless first leg, Bologna – who were fourth in the second tier – return to Serie A after being held 1-1 at home by seventh-place Pescara as the team that finished higher in the regular season go up if the promotion play-off Final ends in a draw.
SPAIN: Three days after Barcelona win the Champions League Final, coach Luis Enrique extends his contract until 2017.

Wednesday June 10

USA: Five days on from beating Holland in Amsterdam, the US win 2-1 against Germany in Cologne with an 87th-minute goal from second-half sub Bobby Wood.


Flying start...Chile (in red) beat Ecuador

Thursday June 11

COPA AMERICA: Hosts Chile kick off the tournament with a 2-0 win against Ecuador. Arturo Vidal, with a penalty, and Eduardo Vargas are the scorers, while sub Matias Fernandez is sent off in injury time.
GUAM: Fourteen years after they lost 16-0 to Tajikistan, Guam win a World Cup qualifier for the first time in their history, beating Turkmenistan 1-0.
SPAIN: Four days after joining Barcelona from Sevilla for €18million, Aleix Vidal makes his international debut as Spain come from behind to beat Costa Rica 2-1 with goals from Paco Alcacer and Cesc Fabregas.

Friday June 12

COPA AMERICA: Coach Miguel Herrera calls Mexico's 0-0 draw

ITALY

PADDY AGNEW

All over for Parma

Club's proud 102-year history comes to an end

All over...Parma players acknowledge the fans at the end of the season

Much as had been expected, there was no knight in shining armour riding over the hill to save Parma. Relegated to Serie B at the end of the season, the club that won the UEFA Cup (in 1995 and 1999) and the Cup-winners Cup (1993) lost an even bigger battle when faced with the receiver's deadline.

Declared bankrupt in March, with debts of around €220million, Parma's last remaining chance of survival rested on the unlikely possibility that someone might step up to the plate and buy the club by June 22. Even though the receivers had reduced the debt to €22.6m, there were still no takers.

As a result, Parma will now drop out of professional football, perhaps starting life again in the amateur ranks of the fifth-tier Serie D – if and when the club name can be recycled. Yet even this remains far from clear.

The ongoing crisis started in 2003 when owners Parmalat collapsed in a spectacular €14billion crash. Deprived of the backing of the dairy multinational company – which the previous year had been valued at €3.7bn and employed 30,000 people in 30 countries – Parma were soon on a slippery downwards slope.

In much more recent times, an alarm bell rang loud and clear last summer when UEFA refused to let the team play in the Europa League, despite finishing sixth in Serie A, essentially because of unpaid taxes.

Since then, things have gone from bad to worse. Last season, the club changed hands twice, allegedly for the price of just one euro, and has had five different presidents. In December, Tommaso Ghirardi sold the club to a little-known Russian-Cypriot consortium headed by Albanian tycoon Rezart Taci. Two months later they sold it to the even-less-well-known Giampietro Manenti.

The Slovenia-linked businessman talked about respecting tax and salary deadlines but failed to come up with any serious funding. In the meantime, the club was having difficulty paying its electricity and gas bills, with baliffs arriving at the training grounds to seize office goods and vehicles. With the players having received no wages since July 2014. the club were also docked seven points – making an already difficult relegation fight virtually impossible.

> "We feel like a carcass in the middle of the desert with only vultures and jackals around"
> Parma coach Roberto Donadoni

Promises...Manenti failed to provide funding for Parma

In the end, Manenti was arrested in Brescia, on March 18, on charges of alleged involvement in credit-card fraud and money recycling. The following day, the club was declared bankrupt by a court hearing. It was only thanks to emergency funding of €5m from the Lega Serie A and the Italian Football Federation (FIGC) that Parma were able to play on until the end of the season – during which time they even managed to beat Juventus 1-0 in mid-April before being relegated.

There had been hopes of a rescue package put together by two consortia – one headed by Parma businessman Giuseppe Corrado, the other by former

First...Bale puts Wales top of their group

with Bolivia a "bitter pill".
CZECH REPUBLIC: Tomas Rosicky wins his 100th cap, but the Czech Republic lose 2-1 away to Iceland.
ITALY: Gianluigi Buffon saves a penalty as Italy draw 1-1 against Croatia in Split in a game played behind closed doors after violent clashes when the teams met in Milan last November.
WALES: Gareth Bale marks his 50th international cap with the only goal of the game as Wales beat Belgium to top their Euro qualifying group.

Saturday June 13

ALBANIA: An Ergys Kace free-kick gives Albania a first-ever victory over France, with a 1-0 win in Elbasan.
COPA AMERICA: Paraguay come from two down to draw 2-2 against Argentina with late goals from Nelson Haedo Valdez and Luca Barrios, while Uruguay top the group with a 1-0 win over Jamaica.
ESTONIA: Infonet thrash non-league Virtsu Jalgpalliklubi 36-0 in the first round of the Estonian Cup.
GAMBIA: New coach Raoul Savoy springs a shock in the African Nations Cup qualifiers as Gambia draw 0-0 away to South Africa.
GREECE: Having lost 1-0 at home, Greece lose to the Faroe Islands for a second time in their Euro qualifying group, going down 2-1 in Torshavn.
MALAYSIA: T-Team's 30-year-old Nigerian defender David Oniya suffers a heart attack and dies during a friendly against Kelantan.
POLAND: Robert Lewandowski scores the second-fastest hat-trick in Euro history, in three minutes 59 seconds, as Poland win 4-0 against Georgia. He didn't score the first of his treble until the 89th minute.
PORTUGAL: Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo scores his third hat-trick in his last three games for club and ➤

Floored... South Africa's Thulani Hlatshwayo (in yellow) fails to overcome Assan Ceesay and Gambia

Sign of the times..."closed after robbery"

US baseball player Mike Piazza – but both came to nothing. It has been suggested that while neither was put off so much by the €22.6m debt, a bigger concern was the unknown financial liabilities linked to the contracts of more than 100 players, reportedly bought and sold on by Parma in recent seasons.

One particularly worrying aspect of the whole debacle – and one that raises some serious questions – concerns the FIGC's management of the problem.

The federation's financial regulatory authority, Covisoc, carried out inspections of the club's books in April, September and December of last year, when it was already clear that all was not in order. Furthermore, last June, it was the federation that had ruled Parma out of the Europa League because of financial problems. Yet, the federation only took action this February when it became clear that the club had again failed to pay players' wages and, more dramatically, when Parma failed to play two consecutive league games, against Udinese and Genoa.

The receivers have now issued a statement to confirm that no acquisition offers were forthcoming, explaining that they will now meet with creditors and the bankruptcy court judge in order to "make the necessary arrangement regarding the bankruptcy proceedings of the company".

It is all a very sad end for a club where Buffon, Cannavaro, Chiesa, Crespo, Sensini, Thuram, Veron and Zola all once strutted their stuff. WS

■ SERIE B SPOT UP FOR GRABS
Parma's expulsion from the second tier leaves Serie B one short of its 22-team quota. Relegated sides Brescia, Cittadella, Varese and Virtus Entella – the latter via the play-offs – all feel they have a strong case for being reprieved, while Bassano argue they should be promoted from Lega Pro after losing the third-tier play-off to Como.

➤ country as Portugal come from behind to beat Armenia 3-2.

Sunday June 14

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA: Trailing 3-1 from their home leg, Antigua & Barbuda produce a stunning turnaround away to Saint Lucia in the World Cup qualifiers, winning 4-1 – Josh Parker scoring the third goal three minutes into stoppage time and Aaron Tumwa grabbing the winner two minutes after that.
BRAZIL: Sao Paulo go top of Serie A with a 1-0 victory away to Chapecoense.
COPA AMERICA: Salomon Rondon gives Venezuela a shock 1-0 win against Colombia, while Brazil need a winner from Douglas Costa in the third minute of added time to beat Peru 2-1.
FINLAND: National coach Mixu Paatelainen is sacked after Saturday's 1-0 loss to Hungary.
SPAIN: Having lost their home leg 3-0, Zaragoza produce a remarkable performance to win 4-1 at Girona and reach the second-tier play-off Final on away goals.
URUGUAY: The title-deciding play-off between Nacional and Penarol is abandoned seven minutes from the end of extra-time, with Nacional leading 3-2, after Penarol supporters start ripping out seats and attacking the police.

Monday June 15

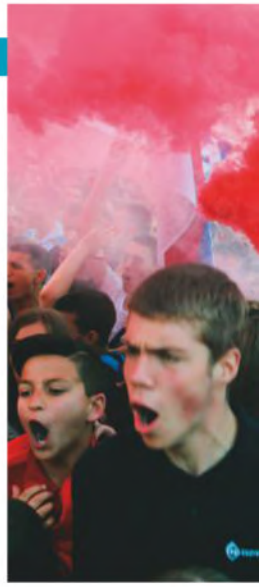
COPA AMERICA: Bolivia beat Ecuador 3-2 to record their first win in the competition for 18 years. Chile's Arturo Vidal is arrested for causing a traffic accident while under the influence of alcohol after scoring in his side's 3-3 draw with Mexico.
CROATIA: UEFA starts disciplinary proceedings against the Croatia Football Federation after an apparent swastika was spotted marked on the pitch during Friday's Euro 2016 qualifier with Italy in Split.
THAILAND: Holders Thailand beat Myanmar 3-0 in the Final to retain their South-East Asian Games title.

Tuesday June 16

COPA AMERICA: Sergio Aguero's header sees Argentina beat holders Uruguay 1-0 in the 199th encounter between the two teams. They are joined on four points in Group B by Paraguay, who beat Jamaica 1-0.
GUAM: Minnows Guam beat India 2-1 to go three points clear in their World Cup qualifying group.
ITALY: Antonio Conte loses his first game as Italy coach as a goal from Eder gives Portugal a 1-0 win.
UGANDA: SC Villa beat Kampala ➤

SERBIA

VLADIMIR NOVAK



Young guns offer new hope

Success of the under-20s could be just the start

Following Serbia's triumph at the Under-20 World Cup in New Zealand, a crowd of 50,000 turned out in Belgrade to welcome home the country's triumphant youngsters. On one of the banners hanging from the front of City Hall – which is more used to celebrating successes in basketball, water polo or volleyball – there was the inscription "*Ima nade*" (there is hope).

And while the euphoria of the under-20s may soon be over, there is a real hope that this will be the start of something great at senior level.

Much of that belief is not just down to the fact that the team won the junior world championship, but more about how they did it, battling to victory despite playing extra-time in all four of their games in the knockout stage.

Physical strength, power and stamina have never been particular virtues of Serbian football, but this generation are an exception. As midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic said after the 2-1 victory in the Final against Brazil: "We showed German mentality in a Serbian way. We always played well in those extra 30 minutes. It's not by chance that we eventually won in each of those games. Again we succeeded to show our strong mentality.

"Our persistence, desire for victory and motivation were on highest level. We never give up and we always reach our goal."

Solid at the back, hard working and creative in

Historic...Serbia players celebrate back at home

Proud...fans in Belgrade salute the under-20s

midfield, the team demonstrated great tactical discipline and, despite lacking a top-class striker, they still managed to be an effective attacking force, scoring 10 goals in seven matches.

From captain and goalkeeper Predrag Rajkovic of Red Star Belgrade, through to the centre-backs Milos Veljkovic of Tottenham Hotspur and Vojvodina's Srdjan Babic, and on to midfielders Nemanja Maksimovic of Astana in Kazakhstan and Milinkovic-Savic of Belgium's Genk, there was a great team spirit on display with no noticeable weak link. And added to this was the talent of Partizan winger Andrija Zivkovic who is already being called a "Serbian Arjen Robben".

But while all credit must go to the players, it is highly unlikely that any of this would have been possible without the guiding hand of 37-year-old coach Veljko Paunovic.

Ably assisted by his back-room staff, Paunovic left nothing to chance, setting up his side perfectly to combat whatever opposition they came up against. He has now worked with this set of players for the past three years and has built a tremendous relationship with players who have thrived on his outstanding motivational skills.

When he first started working with the group, he sat them down to watch a documentary about "the Chileans" – the Yugoslavia team of Boban, Suker, Mijatovic and Prosinecki that won the 1987 Under-20 World Cup in Chile.

"We gathered here [in the sports centre of Serbia's FA in Stara Pazova, near Belgrade] for the first time three years ago," said Paunovic on his return from this year's tournament. "Forty players were here and we watched footage of the 'Chileans'.

"I think that the most important thing was that the boys believed in it, that they respected each other and that they had a great desire to achieve their goal.

"I am proud of all players and I am proud that we crowned our work in the best possible way."

> "We showed German mentality in a Serbian way"
> Under-20 midfielder Sergej Milinkovic-Savic

With the senior team very unlikely to qualify for the European Championship next year – which would be the third successive major tournament they have missed out on – and a disappointing showing at this summer's Euro Under-21 finals, the under-20 side offers a glimmer of hope for the future.

It was a year ago that Paunovic said that he is convinced Serbia's national side will one day become European champions, claiming: "If Greece could do it, I see no reason why Serbia cannot."

With his charisma and optimism becoming contagious, Serbian fans are starting to believe that it is his "New Zealanders" who will fulfil that dream. WS

2015 UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

Serbia's first global title was achieved with a never-say-die attitude that culminated in a 2-1 victory over Brazil in the Final thanks to Nemanja Maksimovic's 118th-minute winner.

All four of their games in the knockout stage went to extra time and they were seconds away from going out in the round-of-16 until Ivan Saponjic's equaliser against Hungary. They then went on to win 2-1 despite Milan Gajic being sent off.

Although a record-equalling sixth world under-20 title eluded Brazil they did extend their record unbeaten run in the finals to 20 matches. They beat the previous best mark of Argentina, whose failure to get out of their group was one of the competition shocks.

Adama Traore, who scored twice as Mali beat Senegal 3-1 in the third-place play-off, was named player of the tournament, while Viktor Kovalenko of Ukraine was top scorer with five goals.

● *For results round-up, see page 92*
● *Talent Scout, page 66*

Determined...Serbia (in red) stop Brazil in the Final

➤ Capital City Authority 3-0 in a re-played Ugandan Cup Final after the previous game was abandoned following a pitch invasion.

Wednesday June 17

CZECH REPUBLIC: Denmark beat the hosts 2-1 as the European Under-21 Championship gets underway in the Czech Republic.
COPA AMERICA: Neymar is sent off in injury time, along with Colombia's Carlos Bacca, as Brazil lose 1-0 to a goal from Jeison Murillo.
ENGLAND: Leicester City sack three players – Tom Hopper, Adam Smith and James Pearson, who is the son of manager Nigel Pearson – after they film themselves being racially abusive to women in a sex tape made on the club's end-of-season tour of Thailand.
SPAIN: Real Zaragoza beat Las Palmas 3-1 in their home leg of the second-tier promotion play-off Final.
USA: Clint Dempsey is sent off for ripping up the referee's notebook as Seattle Sounders finish with seven men and lose 3-1 in extra-time to Portland Timbers in the US Open Cup. Referee Daniel Radford also dismissed Seattle's Brad Evans and Michael Azira, while striker Obafemi Martins went off injured with all three substitutions having been used.

Thursday June 18

COPA AMERICA: Peru beat Venezuela 1-0 to leave all four teams in Group C level on three points with one game to play.
GREECE: Olympiakos owner Vangelis Marinakis is banned from all involvement with football as part of an investigation into allegations of a criminal organisation controlling the Greek game. He is ordered to quit as president of the club but can retain ownership of the company that runs the last season's double winners.

Friday June 19

COPA AMERICA: Neymar is given a four-game ban for his sending off against Colombia, which rules Brazil's captain out of the remainder of the tournament. Ecuador's 2-1 win against Mexico puts Chile and Bolivia in the quarter-finals, prior to the former's 5-0 victory over the latter in the last game in Group A.
MALTA: A year after losing his starting place, Hibernians' captain Andrew Cohen is voted Maltese Footballer of the Year at the annual Malta Football Association awards.
RUSSIA: Dynamo Moscow, who were due to compete in the Europa League after finishing fourth in the Russian Premier League, are ➤

➤ banned from the competition for falling foul of UEFA's Financial Fairplay rules.

Saturday June 20

COPA AMERICA: Uruguay make sure of their place in the quarter-finals with a 1-1 draw against Paraguay in a rematch of the 2011 Final. Argentina top the group with a 1-0 win against Jamaica in Lionel Messi's 100th game for his country.
JAPAN: With one round to go, Urawa Red Diamonds win the J. League's first-stage title with a 1-1 draw at Vissel Kobe and book their

Champions...Urawa Red Diamonds

place in the championship play-offs, which start in late November.
SERBIA: Playing in their first Under-20 World Cup finals, Serbia are crowned champions, beating Brazil 2-1 in the Final with a 118th-minute goal from Nemanja Maksimovic.

Sunday June 21

COPA AMERICA: Colombia and Peru draw 0-0 and both go through to the knockout stage, along with Brazil, who beat Venezuela 2-1.
SPAIN: Las Palmas return to La Liga after 13 years, beating Real Zaragoza on away goals in the second tier play-off Final. Trailing 3-1 from the away leg, they win the return 2-0, with goals from Roque Mesa and Sergio Araujo.

Monday June 22

ITALY: Parma look set to start next season in the amateur leagues after failing to find a buyer. Relegated from the top flight, the bankrupt club cannot register for Serie B as money is still owed to players and staff.

Tuesday June 23

BELGIUM: Despite a court imposing an interim order blocking UEFA from activating new Financial Fairplay rules, European football's governing body says it will appeal against the decision and continue ➤

ASIA

JOHN DUERDEN

Shocks in store for big boys

Minnows shine in qualifiers

The second round of qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup is well and truly up and running in Asia, with 39 teams – 40 before Indonesia's suspension by FIFA – split into eight groups of five, with the winners and the four best second-placed finishers going into the final round.

The eight top seeds, including Australia, Japan and South Korea, have played just once so far while most of the other sides have 180 minutes under their belt. But who would have thought Guam would be leading their group with maximum points from the first two games?

Well, Guam coach Gary White for one. As he told *World Soccer* last month: "We want to be top of the group after the first two games and then we'll see what happens."

The Englishman got his wish with two famous wins: 1-0 v Turkmenistan and then 2-1 v India. There are tougher tests ahead – not least the next game, in Tehran against Iran, who were held to a 1-1 draw in Turkmenistan in their opener – on September 3, but it is going to be a pleasant summer for Guam followers.

With six games left, finishing second is a possibility. And for a team that had only played two qualification games previously, against Iran and Tajikistan for the 2002 tournament which ended in respective 16-0 and then 19-0 losses, that's quite a turnaround.

Shock...Japan (in blue) were held at home by Singapore

Solid start... Dooley's Philippines side have won two out of two

After the loss to White's Guam, India's coach Stephen Constantine – who is also English – reminded the country's media that, although Guam's population of 180,000 is dwarfed by India's 1.3billion, Guam had more players with overseas experience than India.

"Guam started with nine players from the United States who have had a football education that is not available in India," said Constantine. "Fair play to Guam for using the rules, as you do what you can to field your strongest team."

India have no points from their first two games and with the AFC combining qualification for the 2018 World Cup with that of the Asian Cup, things are not looking good for the national side.

The loss has restarted a debate as to whether India should go down the same route as Guam, but at the moment the government does not allow what are called "players of Indian origin" to represent the country unless they renounce their other passport. Fans are putting together a petition for a change of

> "Fair play to Guam for using the rules, as you do what you can to field your strongest team"
>
> India coach Stephen Constantine

rules but it could take some time.

The Philippines, on the other hand, have fully embraced this idea and have been handing caps to players of Philippine heritage born all over the world. In came former Fulham reserve goalkeeper Neil Etheridge, the Younghusband brothers, once of Chelsea, and former German youth international Stephan Schrock, but the side remained south-east Asia's traditional underachievers.

However, with former United States international goalkeeper Thomas Dooley in charge, results are starting to pick up, with Bahrain and Yemen already beaten. Next up is a home game against top seeds Uzbekistan, who lost their only game so far, 4-2 in North Korea.

Australia played their first competitive game since winning the Asian Cup in January and achieved a hard-fought 2-1 victory in Kyrgyzstan, where a bumpy pitch hampered the hosts more than the Socceroos. Jordan, who are expected to finish second in the group, won 3-1 in Tajikistan, who went on to draw with Bangladesh.

South Korea strolled to a 2-0 win over Myanmar in the neutral venue of Bangkok thanks to a goal and an assist for Bayer Leverkusen's Son Heung-min, while bitter rivals Japan fared less well.

Expected to win comfortably at home to Singapore, who opened their campaign with a 4-0 win in Cambodia, Japan were held to a goalless draw in Saitama in a first competitive game under the guidance of Algeria's 2014 World Cup boss, Vahid Halilhodzic.

While there's still time for Japan to get back on track, and the outsiders to fade after good starts, the signs are that some of the so-called minnows in Asia are growing up. WS

➤ to implement its new regulations.

BRAZIL: At the age of 43, former World Cup winner Rivaldo, who is now president of second-tier side Mogi Mirim, says he may play again in a bid to help the club in their battle against relegation.

ITALY: Catania president Antonino Pulvirenti is one of seven people linked to the Serie B side arrested on suspicion of match-fixing last season. The club were relegated from the top flight in 2014 and are alleged to have fixed games to avoid successive demotions. Pulvirenti's deputy, Pablo Cosentino, and former director of sport Daniele Delli Carri are also arrested.

RUSSIA: Torpedo Moscow are on the brink of collapse after

Going...Torpedo Moscow face collapse

withdrawing from the Russian league because of financial problems. Three-times champions in the Soviet era, and a winner of the Russian Cup, Torpedo were relegated from the Premier League last season and have not applied for a place in the second tier.

Wednesday June 24

COPA AMERICA: Uruguay's Edinson Cavani and Jorge Fucile are sent off as the holders lose 1-0 to Chile in the quarter-finals, with Mauricio Isla scoring for the hosts.

OLYMPICS: Portugal and Sweden join fellow European Under-21 Championship semi-finalists Denmark and Germany in qualifying for next year's Games in Rio.

REP OF IRELAND: An Argentinian newspaper, *La Nacion*, claims that Ireland players were offered $10,000 each to avoid hurting Lionel Messi in a friendly match between the two countries in 2010 to inaugurate the Aviva Stadium.

Thursday June 25

COPA AMERICA: Paolo Guerrero scores a hat-trick as Peru beat Bolivia 3-1 to set-up a semi-final against hosts Chile. Marcelo Moreno gets a consolation penalty six minutes from time.

MOLDOVA: Lilian Popescu makes a winning start as coach of Sheriff ➤

ISLAND GAMES

STEVE MENARY

It's gold again for Guernsey

Channel Islanders sweep to victory in Jersey

Four years after Guernsey FC started playing in the English league system – where they won successive promotions and are currently in Ryman League Division One – the Channel Islanders won gold at the Island Games' 14th football tournament, beating the Isle of Man 3-0 in the Final on neighbouring Jersey.

With all but one of the squad coming from Guernsey FC, they sailed through the group stage, beating Ynys Mon 5-2 and the Swedish island of Gotland 3-0, before brushing aside UEFA's newest members Gibraltar with a 4-0 victory at Springfield Stadium in St Helier.

Guernsey then returned to Springfield to edge out Menorca in the semi-finals before facing the Isle of Man, who were losing finalists in 1993, 1999 and 2003. Craig Young, Ross Allen and Kieran Mahon were all on target as the Channel islanders won their third title to equal the record of Jersey.

Despite Jersey's elimination in the group stage this year, the tournament was a big success, attracting 16 sides – compared to the four who took part at the last event in Bermuda in 2013. Bermuda did not

Line-ups...the Falkland Islands (red) take on the Isle of Wight

Top islanders...Guernsey (in green) lay siege to the Gibraltar goal

➤ as last season's cup winners beat champions Milsami Orhei 3-1 to win the Moldovan Super Cup for a record sixth time.

USA: Seattle Sounders' Clint Dempsey is banned from the US Open Cup for two years – or for six games, whichever is longer – for ripping up the referee's notebook during the game against Portland Timbers.

Friday June 26

COPA AMERICA: With no extra-time played after a goalless draw with Colombia, Carlos Tevez – who hours earlier had confirmed that he was leaving Juventus for Boca Juniors – appears from the substitutes' bench to score the winning spot-kick as Argentina win 5-4 on penalties in the quarter-finals.

FIFA: A federation statement confirms a story in Swiss newspaper *Blick* in which president Sepp Blatter was reported to have said: "I did not resign, I put myself and my office in the hands of the FIFA congress."

SUDAN: Al Merreikh win a CAF Champions League group game for the first time, beating debutants MC El Eulma 2-0 at home.

Saturday June 27

ALGERIA: USM Alger stun local rivals ES Setif by winning 2-1 away

> **"All we have is four games every two years. We don't even have a pitch"**
> Falklands Islands' coach Georgi Elkabidze

defend their crown as they were involved in 2018 World Cup qualifiers, but Greenland – surprise silver medallists last time – were there, and they were desperately unlucky not to claim another medal.

Twice pegged back by Menorca in their opening Group A game, Greenland won their next two – beating the Finnish island of Aland 2-0 and the Estonians of Saarema 2-1 – but they missed out on the semi-finals on goal difference to Menorca, who later claimed bronze.

"We had a rough preparation this year," said Greenland's Ethiopian coach, Tekle Ghebrelul. "There was too much snow and ice to do much, apart from some running, before we left for a training camp."

Other than Guernsey, Greenland were the only team not to lose a game and they finished fifth after winning a play-off with the 2011 champions the Isle of Wight.

The Isle of Wight were disappointing and badly shown up in their second group game, in St Ouen against the Falkland Islands. After threatening to swamp the Falklanders, the Isle of Wight were outfought in the second half by a team that does not even play regularly and a 3-0 defeat was harsh on the South Atlantic side.

Like the Greenlanders, the Island Games provides a rare outlet for the Falklands, whose small, five-club league fell apart four years ago. "We don't even know what our level is," said coach Georgi Elkabidze. "If we played regularly we could find out, but all we have is four games every two years. We don't even have a pitch as the one in Port Stanley is unusable."

Elkabidze is a Georgian who was with Dynamo Tbilisi as a youth and reflects the slightly looser rules on nationality. The Falklands squad also included Chilean striker Rafa Sotomayor and a well-travelled Zimbawean, Shupi Chipursa, who spent 14 years working around the world, including two years playing in the Croatian second tier.

Given that the Falklands' 19-man squad took two days to get to Jersey and had no real preparations, a win in their opener against Hitra and finishing 11th can be viewed as a success.

First staged in 1989, the Island Games has run for longer and outlasted all the plethora of tournaments for sides stuck in the limbo world outside FIFA. Roll on Gotland 2017. WS

ISLAND GAMES FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

Guernsey	3 (2001, 2003, 2015)
Jersey	3 (1993, 1997, 2009)
Isle of Wight	2 (1995, 2011)
Faroe Islands	2 (1989, 1991)
Ynys Mon	1 (1999)
Gibraltar	1 (2007)
Shetland	1 (2005)
Bermuda	1 (2013)

to the defending champions in the CAF Champions League.
COPA AMERICA: Paraguay beat Brazil on penalties, after a 1-1 draw, to reach the semi-finals. Derlis Gonzalez scores the winning spot-kick, having also scored from the spot to cancel out Robinho's opener in normal time.

Sunday June 28

BELARUS: As part of his goal celebration in Slutsk's 4-0 win away to Neman Grodno in the Premier League, striker Syarhey Lyavitski produces a ring and proposes to his girlfriend – who says yes.
COPA AMERICA: Chile's Gonzalo Jara is banned and will miss the rest of the competition after he appeared to poke his finger against Uruguay striker Edinson Cavani's backside in Wednesday's quarter-final.
EGYPT: Ivorian striker Hermann Kouao scores twice in two minutes as CAF Champions League debutants Smouha come from behind to win 3-2 away to Moroccan side Moghreb Tetouan.

Monday June 29

COPA AMERICA: Eduardo Vargas scores twice as Chile reach the Final with a 2-1 victory over Peru, who have Carlos Zambrano sent off.
BARBADOS: Barbados are out of ➤

Euro Under-21s

KEIR RADNEDGE

Sweden triumph in Prague

Spot-kicks seal first Euro Under-21 crown

Supposed makeweights in their group, Sweden were crowned European Under-21 champions in the Czech Republic and proved once again that the gap between age-group teams is far flimsier than at senior level.

Their first success at this level was achieved by doing the simple things well, with goalkeeper Patrik Carlgren, defender Joseph Baffo, midfielders Simon Tibbling and Abdul Khalili, and the hard-running John Guidetti in attack all determinedly impressive.

Of the other teams, Denmark's centre-back Jannick Vestergaard and the more exotic likes of Portugal's Bernardo Silva and William Carvalho, as well as Italy's Domenico Berardi, stood out. England's Harry Kane, who was the focus of much attention, was hamstrung by a lack of creative support.

The Czechs' staging of the tournament was happily straightforward after the politically-inspired mangles of so many senior events.

In Prague, Slavia and Sparta's Eden and Letna stadia hosted Group A games, plus one semi-final and the Final, while Group B in Moravia was centred on Olomouc, two and a half hours south-east of the capital by train, and Uherske Hradiste, further down towards the Slovak border.

Group A interest focused on the Czech hosts and favourites Germany, but both ultimately disappointed. Every tournament needs the host team to generate fan momentum and the only Czech consolation after an opening 2-1 defeat by Denmark was that Germany and Serbia drew 1-1 in the day's other tie. The Germans conceded an early goal, levelled through Liverpool's Emre Can and held out for the draw despite having Christian Gunter sent off.

With Can restored to midfield after struggling as a makeshift defender at Liverpool, Germany beat the Danes 3-0 next time out, with Kevin Volland scoring twice, but it proved the high watermark of their campaign. Jihlava striker Jan Kliment's hat-trick in the Czechs' 4-0 win against Serbia was enough to make him the tournament's top scorer.

Denmark recovered from their German upset to beat Serbia 2-0 and claim top spot, while Czech hopes came to an end in a 1-1 draw with Germany, who finished runners-up in the group after withstanding the hosts' late rally. Semi-final places not only fired Germany and Denmark forward but guaranteed places for both at the Rio Olympics.

> "All the teams in this tournament made defensive mistakes but we were punished ruthlessly"
>
> England manager Gareth Southgate

Emphatic...Silva scores in Portugal's semi-final rout of Germany

One issue kept Czech hopes alive. In Group B, if England were to finish in the top two then, since Britain would not enter the Olympics, a play-off would be needed between the two third-placed teams – the Czechs being one – to settle the last place in Rio.

Despite being drawn with Italy, Portugal and the always redoubtable Sweden, England manager Gareth Southgate had built up morale and a selection system, with the presence of Kane in attack, after his outstanding season with Tottenham Hotspur, being one of the main attractions of the tournament.

However, Southgate's plan of action was undermined by the loss of qualifying top scorer Saido Berahino to a mystery eve-of-event injury and defensive cornerstone John Stones to concussion after a training-ground collision with keeper Jack Butland.

England lost their opener 1-0 to Portugal, for whom Monaco's Bernardo Silva was a delight to watch, but then beat Sweden with a fine late volley from Manchester United's Jesse Lingard.

They needed to win their third game to reach the semi-finals – and offer the Czechs an Olympic play-off chance – and opponents Italy came into the match with issues of their own. They had thrown away their opener against Sweden in ridiculous fashion, losing 2-1 after

Scandinavian night... Sweden celebrate their Euro triumph

leading 1-0 at the interval against a side reduced to 10 men by the early expulsion of defender Alexander Milosevic. But it all went wrong when Guidetti levelled and Juventus' Stefano Sturaro was sent off for throwing a punch. Four minutes from time, Sweden completed the turnaround with a winning penalty from Bordeaux's Isaac Kiese Thelin.

Next time out Italy wasted a catalogue of chances in a goalless draw with Portugal which set up a winner-takes-all last game.

Italy beat England 3-0 and for eight minutes they looked to be in the semi-finals, with Portugal leading Sweden 1-0. However, the impressive Tibbling snatched a last-minute Swedish equaliser and, finishing level on points, the use of "mutual results" saw Sweden progress rather than Italy as the first degree of separation proved fatal.

In the semis, Sweden comfortably beat Denmark 4-1 while Germany were ripped apart 5-0 by Portugal. Silva scored the first goal and had a hand in the next three as the Portuguese danced around opponents reduced to a helplessly tetchy 10 men by the expulsion of substitute Leonardo Billencourt.

The Final, however, proved a different story. Portugal captain Sergio Oliveira curled an early free-kick against the Swedish bar, but otherwise Silva and Carvalho were stifled. Sweden coach Hakan Ericson put into effect all the lessons he had learned from the teams' group game and the full 120 minutes ended goalless.

Two sharp saves by Carlgren in the shoot-out meant a 4-3 victory and Sweden, to the highly vocal delight of their magnificent fans, were European under-21 champions for the first time. WS

➤ the 2018 World Cup after being sanctioned for fielding an ineligible player in the qualifier against Aruba on June 14. Hadan Holligan, who scored in Barbados' 1-0 victory, should have been serving a one-match ban. Aruba were awarded a 3-0 forfeit win and go through 3-2 on aggregate.

Tuesday June 30

BRAZIL: Robinho ends his third spell at Santos, with local media reporting he is set to join former national coach Luiz Felipe Scolari at Chinese champions Guangzhou Evergrande.
COPA AMERICA: Argentina thrash Paraguay 6-1 in the semi-finals with goals from Marcos Rojo, Javier Pastore, Angel Di Maria (two), Sergio Aguero and Gonzalo Higuain.
CZECH REPUBLIC: Jakub Dovalil's seven-year spell as coach of the national junior side ends a week after they were knocked out in the group stage of the Euro Under-21s.
FRANCE: Bastia appeal against relegation to Ligue 2 over a budget deficit of €1.3m, claiming that Ryad Boudebouz's sale to Montpellier for €1.7m will resolve the problem.
SWEDEN: Goalkeeper Patrik Carlgren saves two spot-kicks as Sweden beat Portugal 4-3 on penalties after a goalless 120 minutes in the Final of the European Under-21 Championship.
UEFA: Cardiff's Millennium Stadium is chosen to host the 2017 UEFA Champions League Final. That year's Europa League Final will be at the Friends Arena in Solna, Sweden, with the 2017 UEFA Super Cup at Skopje's National Arena Filip II in Macedonia.

Host...the Champions League Final will come to Cardiff in 2017

Wednesday July 1

MEXICO: Javier Hernandez will miss the CONCACAF Gold Cup after breaking his collarbone in Mexico's goalless friendly against Honduras.
WALES: The New Saints win away in the Champions League for the first time, beating B36 Torshavn 2-1 in the Faroe Islands.

Thursday July 2

DENMARK: Brondby record their biggest ever win in a continental competition, winning 9-0 at home to Juvenes/Dogana of San Marino in the Europa League.
REP OF IRELAND: One of two second-tier sides in this season's Europa League – Go Ahead Eagles of Holland are the other – University College Dublin beat Luxembourg's Dudelange 1-0 at home.
RUSSIA: UEFA says Rubin Kazan will replace Dynamo Moscow in the Europa League after the latter broke financial fairplay rules.
SERBIA: Red Star Belgrade, European champions in 1991, lose 2-0 at home to Kairat Almaty of Kazakhstan in the Europa League.
SLOVAKIA: Karol Meszaros scores the first hat-trick of the new season in Europe as Slovan Bratislava win 6-0 in Gibraltar against Europa.

Friday July 3

MOZAMBIQUE: A 4-0 win away to the Seychelles gives Mozambique a 9-1 victory and sets a new record aggregate score in the African Nations Championship.

Saturday July 4

COPA AMERICA: Chile win the continental title for the first time, beating Argentina on penalties in the Final.
LIBERIA: Hosting an international for the first time since an Ebola-induced ban was introduced 13 months ago, Liberia draw 1-1 with Guinea in the African Nations Championship qualifiers but lose 4-2 on aggregate.
UKRAINE: UEFA says Europa League runners-up Dnipro will be allowed to play European games in their home town of Dnipropetrovsk once more.

Sunday July 5

HUNGARY: Cup holders Ferencvaros beat champions Videoton 3-0 in the Hungarian Super Cup.
MICRONESIA: Having lost their opening game at the Pacific Games 30-0 to Tahiti, Micronesia go down 38-0 to Fiji.
PARAGUAY: Apertura winners Cerro Porteno open their clausura campaign with a 1-0 win away to Deportivo Santani.
USA: Los Angeles Galaxy's new signing Steven Gerrard is introduced to the crowd at half-time during a 4-0 victory over Toronto, in which Robbie Keane scores a hat-trick. Kaka scores in Orlando City's 1-1 draw with Real Salt Lake but is then sent off. WS

Internationals

COPA AMERICA

Played in Chile

Group A

June11 - Santiago
Chile 2 (Vidal pen 67, Vargas 84)
Ecuador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 46,000. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Chile: Bravo - Medel, Jara, Mena, Isla, Aranguiz (Pizarro 85), Diaz, Beausejour (Vargas 46), Valdivia (Fernandez 68), Sanchez, Vidal.
Sent off: Fernandez 90+3.
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes, Achilier, Erazo, Ayovi, Martinez (Ibarra 79), Noboa, Lastra (Quinonez 68), Montero, Valencia, Bolanos.

June12 - Vina del Mar
Mexico 0
Bolivia 0
Att: 14,987. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)
Mexico: J J Corona - Flores, Ayala, Marquez (Aquino 64), Dominguez, Aldrete, Medina (Montes 81), Guemez, J M Corona, Herrera (Jimenez 61), Vuoso.
Bolivia: Quinonez - Hurtado, Raldes, Zenteno, Morales, Pedriel (M Bejarano 85), Chumacero, D Bejarano, Smedberg-Dalence, Campos (Escobar 71), Moreno.

June15 - Valparaiso
Ecuador 2 (Valencia 48, Bolanos 82)
Bolivia 3 (Raldes 5, Smedberg-Dalence 18, Moreno pen 43)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 5,982. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes (Angulo 86), Achilier, Erazo, Ayovi, Noboa, Quinonez (Ibarra 46), Martinez (Cazares 46), Bolanos, Montero, Valencia.
Bolivia: Quinonez - Hurtado, Raldes, Zenteno, Morales, Pedriel (Coimbra 57), D Bejarano, Chumacero, Smedberg-Dalence, Lizio (M Bejarano 72), Moreno (Miranda 88).

June15 - Santiago
Chile 3 (Vidal 22, pen 55, Vargas 42)
Mexico 3 (Vuoso 21, 66, Jimenez 29)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 45,583. **Ref:** Carrillo (Per)
Chile: Bravo - Medel, Jara, Albornoz (Beausejour 87), Isla, Vidal, Aranguiz, Diaz (Mena 71), Valdivia, Vargas (Pinilla 85), Sanchez.
Mexico: J J Corona - Flores, Valenzuela, Ayala, Dominguez, Aldrete (Salcedo 71), Medina (Aquino 64), Guemez, J M Corona (Osuna 77), Jimenez, Vuoso.

June19 - Rancagua
Mexico 1 (Jimenez pen 64)
Ecuador 2 (Bolanos 26, Valencia 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 11,051. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)
Mexico: J J Corona - Flores, Valenzuela, Ayala, Dominguez, Velarde (Aquino 46), Medina, Guemez (Fabian 52), J M Corona (Herrera 62), Jimenez, Vuoso.
Ecuador: Dominguez - Paredes, Mina, Achilier, Ayovi, Noboa, Lastra, Ibarra (Cazares 78), Bolanos, Montero (Martinez 90+2), Valencia.

June19 - Santiago
Chile 5 (Aranguiz 3, 66, Sanchez 37, Medel 79, Raldes og 86)
Bolivia 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 45,601. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Jara (Pizarro 70), Beausejour, Aranguiz, Diaz, Vidal (Fernandez 46), Vargas, Valdivia, Sanchez (Henriquez 46).
Bolivia: Quinonez - Rodriguez (M Bejarano 46), Raldes, Coimbra, Morales, Pedriel, Chumacero, Veizaga (Miranda 46), Smedberg-Dalence, Escobar (Lizio 61), Moreno.

COPA AMERICA – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chile (Q)	3	2	1	0	10	3	7
Bolivia (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	7	4
Ecuador	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Mexico	3	0	2	1	4	5	2

Group B

June13 - Antofagasta
Uruguay 1 (C Rodriguez 52)
Jamaica 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,653. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira, Sanchez (Stuani 73), Arevalo, Lodeiro (Gonzalez 86), C Rodriguez (De Arrascaeta 64), Rolan, Cavani.
Jamaica: Kerr - Mariappa, Hector, Morgan, Lawrence, McCleary, Austin, McAnuff, Dawkins (Laing 54), Barnes, Mattocks (Brown 75).

June13 - La Serena
Argentina 2 (Aguero 29, Messi pen 36)
Paraguay 2 (Haedo Valdez 60, Barrios 90)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 16,281. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Argentina: Romero - Roncaglia, Garay, Otamendi, Rojo, Pastore (Tevez 75), Mascherano, Banega (Biglia 80), Messi, Aguero (Higuain 76), Di Maria.
Paraguay: Silva - M Caceres, Da Silva, P Aguilar, Samudio, Bobadilla (Benitez 66), Ortigoza, V Caceres, Ortiz (Gonzalez 46), Haedo Valdez, Santa Cruz (Barrios 79).

June16 - Antofagasta
Paraguay 1 (Benitez 36)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,099. **Ref:** Vera (Ecu)
Paraguay: Silva - B Valdez, Da Silva, P Aguilar, Samudio (Piris 77), Gonzalez, V Caceres, Ortigoza, Benitez (Molinas 86), Santa Cruz, Bobadilla (Haedo Valdez 75).
Jamaica: Kerr - Mariappa, Hector, Morgan, Lawrence, McCleary, Austin, Watson (Laing 57), McAnuff, Dawkins (Mattocks 76), Barnes (Brown 62).

June16 - La Serena
Argentina 1 (Aguero 56)
Uruguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,014. **Ref:** Ricci (Bra)
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, Garay, Otamendi, Rojo, Biglia, Mascherano, Messi, Pastore (Banega 79), Di Maria (Pereyra 89), Aguero (Tevez 82).
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, A Pereira, Gonzalez, Arevalo, Rolan, Lodeiro (Hernandez 69), C Rodriguez (Sanchez 64), Cavani.

June 20 - La Serena
Uruguay 1 (Gimenez 29)
Paraguay 1 (Barrios 44)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,021. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Coates, Gimenez, A Pereira, Sanchez (C Rodriguez 67), Gonzalez, Arevalo, Rolan, Hernandez (Stuani 46), Cavani.
Paraguay: Villar - M Caceres, Da Silva, B Valdez, Piris, Bobadilla (Gonzalez 68), Ortigoza (Ortiz 64), Molinas, Benitez, Haedo Valdez, Barrios (Santa Cruz 72).

June 20 - Vina del Mar
Argentina 1 (Higuain 11)
Jamaica 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 21,083. **Ref:** Bascunan (Chl)
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, Garay, Demichelis, Rojo, Pastore (Pereyra 59), Mascherano, Biglia, Messi, Higuain (Tevez 72), Di Maria (Lamela 84).
Jamaica: Miller - Mariappa, Hector (Taylor 71), Morgan, Lawrence, McCleary, Austin, Watson, Laing (Dawkins 71), McAnuff, Brown (Barnes 78).

COPA AMERICA – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Paraguay (Q)	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
Uruguay (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	0	3	0

Group C

June14 - Rancagua
Colombia 0
Venezuela 1 (Rondon 60)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,387. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga, Zapata, Murillo, Armero (Martinez 82), Sanchez (Cardona 63), Valencia, Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Falcao, Bacca (Gutierrez 72).
Venezuela: Baroja - Rosales, Vizcarrondo, Tunez, Amorebieta, Rincon, Seijas (Lucena 75), Vargas (Gonzalez 78), Arango (Cichero 86), Guerra, Rondon.

June14 - Temuco
Brazil 2 (Neymar 5, Douglas Costa 90+2)
Peru 1 (Cueva 3)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 16,342. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)
Brazil: Jefferson - Daniel Alves, Miranda, David Luiz, Filipe Luis, Elias, Fernandinho, Willian (Everton Ribeiro 87), Fred (Roberto Firmino 75), Neymar, Diego Tardelli (Douglas Costa 66).
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Ascues, Vargas (Yotun 88), Lobaton, Ballon, Sanchez, Farfan (Carrillo 83), Cueva (Reyna 82), Guerrero.

June17 - Santiago
Brazil 0
Colombia 1 (Murillo 36)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 44,008. **Ref:** Osses (Chl)
Brazil: Jefferson - Daniel Alves, Thiago Silva, Miranda, Filipe Luis, Elias (Diego Tardelli 76), Fernandinho, Willian (Douglas Costa 69), Neymar, Fred (Philippe Coutinho 46), Roberto Firmino. *Sent off: Neymar 90+6.*
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga, Zapata, Murillo, Armero, Sanchez, Valencia (Mejia 80), Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Falcao (Ibarbo 69), Gutierrez (Bacca 76). *Sent off: Bacca 90+6.*

June18 - Valparaiso
Peru 1 (Pizarro 72)
Venezuela 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,542. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Ascues, Vargas, Ballon, Lobaton (Reyna 46), Sanchez, Cueva (Hurtado 83), Guerrero, Pizarro (Yotun 90).
Venezuela: Baroja - Rosales, Vizcarrondo, Tunez, Amorebieta, Rincon, Seijas (Fedor 82), Vargas (Cichero 38), Arango (Martinez 73), Guerra, Rondon. *Sent off: Amorebieta 29.*

June 21 - Temuco
Colombia 0
Peru 0
Att: 17,332. **Ref:** Pitana (Arg)
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, Zapata, Murillo, Armero (Ibarbo 57), Valencia (Mejia 24), Sanchez, Cuadrado, Rodriguez, Falcao (Martinez 66), Gutierrez.
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Ascues, Vargas, Sanchez (Hurtado 81), Ballon, Lobaton, Cueva (Yotun 90), Pizarro (Farfan 56), Guerrero.

June 21 - Santiago
Brazil 2 (Thiago Silva 9, Roberto Firmino 51)
Venezuela 1 (Fedor 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,284. **Ref:** Caceres (Par)
Brazil: Jefferson - Daniel Alves, Thiago Silva, Miranda, Filipe Luis, Fernandinho, Elias, Willian, Philippe Coutinho (Diego Tardelli 67), Robinho (Marquinhos 76), Roberto Firmino (David Luiz 67).
Venezuela: Baroja - Rosales, Vizcarrondo, Tunez, Cichero, Rincon, Seijas (Martinez 46), Vargas (Gonzalez 46), Arango, Guerra (Fedor 72), Rondon.

COPA AMERICA – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Peru (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Colombia (Q)	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Venezuela	3	1	0	2	2	3	3

● *The top 2 in each group and the 2 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for the quarter-finals*

Quarter-finals

June 24 - Santiago
Chile 1 (Isla 81)
Uruguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,304. **Ref:** Ricci (Bra)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Jara, Mena, Vidal, Diaz (Fernandez 71), Aranguiz, Valdivia (Pizarro 85), Vargas (Pinilla 71), Sanchez.
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Gimenez, Godin, Fucile, Sanchez (J Rodriguez 85), Gonzalez, Arevalo, C Rodriguez, Rolan (Hernandez 58), Cavani. *Sent off: Cavani 63, Fucile 88.*

June 25 - Temuco
Bolivia 1 (Moreno pen 84)
Peru 3 (Guerrero 20, 23, 74)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 16,872. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Bolivia: Quinonez - Hurtado (Escobar 46), Zenteno, Raldes, Coimbra, Morales (Lizio 46), Chumacero, D Bejarano, Smedberg-Dalence, Moreno, Pena (Pedriel 68).
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Ascues, Vargas, Farfan (Hurtado 77), Yotun, Retamoso, Cueva (Reyna 82), Pizarro (Carrillo 66), Guerrero.

June 26 - Vina del Mar
Argentina 0
Colombia 0
Argentina 5-4 on pens
Att: 21,508. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, Garay, Otamendi, Rojo, Biglia, Mascherano, Messi, Pastore (Banega 77), Di Maria (Lavezzi 87), Aguero (Tevez 73).
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga, Zapata, Murillo, Arias, Mejia, Rodriguez, Cuadrado, Ibarbo (Muriel 86), Gutierrez (Cardona 24), Martinez (Falcao 74).

June 27 - Concepcion
Brazil 1 (Robinho 15)
Paraguay 1 (Gonzalez pen 72)
Paraguay 4-3 on pens
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 29,276. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Brazil: Jefferson - Daniel Alves, Thiago Silva, Miranda, Filipe Luis, Elias, Fernandinho, Willian (Douglas Costa 60), Philippe Coutinho, Robinho (Everton Ribeiro 87), Roberto Firmino (Diego Tardelli 69).
Paraguay: Villar - B Valdez, Da Silva, P Aguilar, Piris, Gonzalez, V Caceres, Aranda (Martinez 77), Benitez (Romero 84), Santa Cruz, Haedo Valdez (Bobadilla 74).

Semi-finals

June 29 - Santiago
Chile 2 (Vargas 42, 64)
Peru 1 (Medel og 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,651. **Ref:** Argote (Ven)
Chile: Bravo - Isla, Medel, Rojas, Albornoz (Mena 46), Vidal, Diaz (Pizarro 46), Aranguiz, Valdivia (Gutierrez 86), Vargas, Sanchez.
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Zambrano, Ascues, Vargas, Ballon, Lobaton (Yotun 73), Carrillo (Pizarro 73), Farfan, Cueva (Ramos 27), Guerrero. *Sent off: Zambrano 20.*

June 30 - Concepcion
Argentina 6 (Rojo 15, Pastore 27, Di Maria 47, 53, Aguero 80, Higuain 83)
Paraguay 1 (Barrios 43)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 29,205. **Ref:** Ricci (Bra)
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, Demichelis, Otamendi, Rojo, Biglia, Mascherano (Gago 77), Pastore (Banega 73), Messi, Aguero (Higuain 81), Di Maria.
Paraguay: Villar - B Valdez, Da Silva, P Aguilar, Piris, Gonzalez (Bobadilla 27), V Caceres, Ortiz, Benitez, Haedo Valdez (Romero 56), Santa Cruz (Barrios 30).

3rd-place match

July 3 - Concepcion
Peru 2 (Carrillo 48, Guerrero 89)
Paraguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 29,143. **Ref:** Orosco (Bol)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Ramos, Ascues, Vargas, Ballon, Lobaton (Yotun 58), Carrillo (Hurtado 90+1), Reyna (Sanchez 84), Cueva, Guerrero.
Paraguay: Villar - M Caceres, Da Silva, P Aguilar, Samudio, Ortigoza (Ortiz 64), V Caceres (Aranda 59), Bobadilla, Martinez (Benitez 57), Romero, Barrios.

Final

July 4 - Santiago
Chile 0
Argentina 0
Chile 4-1 on pens
Aet. **Att:** 45,693. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Chile: Bravo - Silva, Diaz, Medel, Isla, Aranguiz, Vidal, Beausejour, Valdivia (Fernandez 75), Sanchez, Vargas (Henriquez 95).
Argentina: Romero - Zabaleta, Demichelis, Otamendi, Rojo, Biglia, Mascherano, Pastore (Banega 81), Messi, Aguero (Higuain 74), Di Maria (Lavezzi 29).
Penalty shoot-out: *(Chile1st)*

Fernandez	+ (1-0)	Messi	+ (1-1)
Vidal	+ (2-1)	Higuain	x (2-1)
Aranguiz	+ (3-1)	Banega	x (3-1)
Sanchez	+ (4-1)		

Previous winners (10 most recent)

1989	Brazil
1991	Argentina
1993	Argentina
1995	Uruguay
1997	Brazil
1999	Brazil
2001	Colombia
2004	Brazil
2007	Brazil
2011	Uruguay

2018 WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

ASIA
2nd round
Group A

June11 - Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia 1 (Safee 34)
East Timor 1 (Ramon Saro 90+3)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Gillett (Aus)

June11 - Dammam
Saudi Arabia 3 (Al Shehri 6, Al Sahlawi 47, 90+3)
Palestine 2 (Tamburrini 50, Jadue 90+2)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Al Jassim (Qat)

June16 - Shah Alam, Malaysia
East Timor 0
United Arab Emirates 1 (O Abdulrahman 80)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ning (Chn)

June16 - Kuala Lumpur
Malaysia 0
Palestine 6 (Battat 9, Maraaba 22, 75, Seyam 41, 89, Khader Yousef 63)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Kim Sang-woo (SKo)

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palestine	2	1	0	1	8	3	3
Saudi Arabia	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
UAE	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
East Timor	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Malaysia	2	0	1	1	1	7	1

Group B

June11 - Dhaka
Bangladesh 1 (Kichin og 32)
Kyrgyzstan 3 (Zemlianukhin 9, 41, Bernhardt pen 29)
HT: 1-3. **Ref:** Singh (Sin)

June11 - Dushanbe
Tajikistan 1 (Dzhalilov 66)
Jordan 3 (Abdel-Fattah 28, 64, 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Torki (Irn)

June16 - Dhaka
Bangladesh 1 (Ameli 50)
Tajikistan 1 (Fatkhuloev 89)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lee (SKo)
Sent off: Asrorov (Tajikistan) 67

June16 - Bishkek
Kyrgyzstan 1 (Baimatov 90+2)
Australia 2 (Jedinak 2, Oar 67)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** K Al Marri (Qat)
Australia: Ryan - Franjic, Milligan, Spiranovic, Wilkinson, Leckie, Behich, Burns (Oar 56), Jedinak, Troisi (McKay 71), Cahill (Juric 87).

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jordan	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Kyrgyzstan	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Australia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Tajikistan	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Bangladesh	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group C

June11 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 7 (McKee 19, 57, Annan 23, Lo Kwan Yee 30, Ju Yingzhi 42, Lam Ka Wai pen 49, Karikari 68)
Bhutan 0
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Kurbanov (Tkm)

June11 - Male
Maldives 0
Qatar 1 (El Sayed 90+9)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Yamamoto (Jap)

June16 - Thimphu
Bhutan 0
China 6 (Yang Xu 45+2, 61, 76, Wu Lei 55, Yu Dabao 67, 83)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Arumughan (Ind)

June16 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 2 (Xu Deshuai 63, Lam Ka Wai 67)
Maldives 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Makhadmeh (Jor)

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	9	0	6
China	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
Qatar	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Maldives	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Bhutan	2	0	0	2	0	13	0

Group D

June11 - Harmon
Guam 1 (Annaorazov og 12)
Turkmenistan 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Di (Chn)

June11 - Bangalore
India 1 (Chhetri 26)
Oman 2 (Q Said 1, Al Hosni pen 40)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Ko (SKo)

June16 - Harmon
Guam 2 (McDonald 37, T Nicklaw 62)
India 1 (Chhetri 90+3)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Vo (Vie)

June16 - Dashoguz
Turkmenistan 1 (Mingazov 45+2)
Iran 1 (Azmoun 4)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Abdulhusin (Bhn)
Iran: A Haghighi - Montazeri, Ghafouri, Kanaani, Torabi (Taromi 46), Heydari, Amiri (Ghoochannejhad 66), Teymourian, Shojaei (O Ebrahimi 46), Hajsafy, Azmoun.

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guam	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Oman	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Iran	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Turkmenistan	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
India	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Group E

June11 - Mashad
Afghanistan 0
Syria 6 (Rafe 19, 35, Al Ajan 42, Al Hussein 70, Malki 75, Khribin pen 90+4)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Tantashev (Uzb)

June11 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 0
Singapore 4 (Khairul Amri 9, Safuwan 21, 35, Fazrul 55)
HT: 0-3. **Ref:** Liu (HK)

June16 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 0
Afghanistan 1 (Zazai 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Al Awaji (Sau)

June16 - Saitama
Japan 0
Singapore 0
Ref: Sarray (Irq)
Japan: Kawashima - Ota, H Sakai, Makino, Yoshida, Shibasaki (Haraguchi 71), Kagawa (Osako 61), Hasebe, Honda, Okazaki, Usami (Muto 78).

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Singapore	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Syria	1	1	0	0	6	0	3
Afghanistan	2	1	0	1	1	6	3
Japan	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Cambodia	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group F

June16 - Taipei
Taiwan 0
Thailand 2 (Teerasil 21, 39)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Thailand	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Iraq	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Taiwan	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Indonesia excluded after being suspended by FIFA for government interference in the national FA

Group G

June11 - Vientiane
Laos 2 (Sayavutthi pen 81, 83)
Myanmar 2 (Zaw Min Tun 41, Kyaw Zayar Win 85)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Tan (Chn)

June11 - Sidon
Lebanon 0
Kuwait 1 (Nasser 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Kovalenko (Uzb)

June16 - Vientiane
Laos 0
Lebanon 2 (Ghaddar 5, Chamsine 75)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Yu (Tai)

June16 - Bangkok, Thailand
Myanmar 0
South Korea 2 (Lee Jae-sung 35, Son Heung-min 68)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Al Kaaf (Oma)
South Korea: Kim Seung-gyu - Kim Chang-soo (Jeong Dong-ho 61), Kim Jin-su, Jang Hyun-soo, Kwak Tae-hwi, Son Heung-min, Lee Jae-sung, Han Kook-young, Jung Woo-young, Lee Jeong-hyeop (Lee Yong-jae 78), Yeom Ki-hun (Lee Chung-yong 84).

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Korea	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Lebanon	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Kuwait	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Myanmar	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Laos	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group H

June11 - Bocaue
Philippines 2 (Bahadoran 50, Patino 60)
Bahrain 1 (Al Malood 90+3)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Iida (Jap)

June11 - Doha, Qatar
Yemen 0
North Korea 3 (awarded)
The game finished1-0 to North Korea but was later awarded 3-0 to them because Yemen fielded an ineligible player

June16 - Pyongyang
North Korea 4 (Pak Kwang-ryong 4, Jang Kuk-chol 16, Ro Hak-su 34, Ri Hyok-chol 36)
Uzbekistan 2 (Sergeev 53, Rashidov 79)
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Bin Yaacob (Mly)
Sent off: Haydarov (Uzbekistan) 80

June16 - Doha, Qatar
Yemen 0
Philippines 2 (Bahadoran 52, Ramsay 74)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mashentsev (Kyr)

WORLD CUP QUALS – ASIA – 2ND RND: GP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
North Korea	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Philippines	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Bahrain	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Uzbekistan	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
Yemen	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

● *The 8 group winners and the 4 runners-up with the best record will qualify for the 3rd round*

● *These groups double as **QUALIFIERS FOR THE 2019 ASIAN CUP**: the 8 group winners and the 4 runners-up with the best record will also qualify automatically for the 24-team 2019 Asian Cup finals in United Arab Emirates; the next 24 countries with the best record in the groups shown here will then compete in a separate qualifying tournament for the remaining finals places (UAE will qualify automatically, regardless of position in group)*

CONCACAF
2nd round
1st legs

June 7 - Managua
Nicaragua 1 (Chavarria 44)
Surinam 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Santos (PR)

June10 - St.John's
Antigua & Barbuda 1 (T Harriette 21)
St Lucia 3 (Paul 26, Henry 63, Greenidge 90)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Ward (StK)

June10 - Oranjestad
Aruba 0
Barbados 2 (Boyce 18, 28)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)
Sent off: Browne (Barbados) 57

June10 - Willemstad
Curacao 0
Cuba 0
Ref: Moncada (Hnd)
Sent off: G Maria (Curacao) 86

June10 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 2 (Stewart 49, Slater 83)
Guyana 2 (Beresford 26, Wilson 75)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Da Costa (Bhm)

June11 - Roseau
Dominica 0
Canada 2 (Larin 5, Teibert pen 64)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Solis (CR)
Sent off: Borjan (Canada) 80

June11 - Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic 1 (Lombardi 71)
Belize 2 (McCaulay 13, 88)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Escobar (Gtm)

June11 - Basseterre
St Kitts & Nevis 2 (Mitchum 68, Sawyers 71)
El Salvador 2 (Herrera 41, N Bonilla 87)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Bourdeau (Can)

June12 - Guatemala City
Guatemala 0
Bermuda 0
Ref: Martinez (Cub)

June12 - Bayamon
Puerto Rico 1 (Bozkurt 16)
Grenada 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Reid (Blz)

2nd legs

June14 - Bridgetown
Barbados 0
Aruba 3 (awarded)
The game finished1-0 to Barbados but was later awarded to Aruba because Barbados fielded an ineligible player
Aruba 3-2 on agg

June14 - Belmopan
Belize 3 (Roches 17, Kuylen 37, McCaulay 76)
Dominican Republic 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Moore (Guy)
Belize 5-1 on agg

June14 - Havana
Cuba 1 (Y Marquez 5)
Curacao 1 (Merencia 17)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Perea (Pan)
Sent off: Sanchez (Cuba) 45
Agg1-1; Curacao on away goals

June14 - Georgetown
Guyana 4 (Welshman 39, 76, Danns pen 50, 86)
St Vincent & The Grenadines 4 (M Samuel 16, Slater 41, 57, Anderson 66)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Legister (Jam)
Agg 6-6; St Vincent on away goals

June14 - St.John's, Antigua
St Lucia 1 (Frederick pen 81)
Antigua & Barbuda 4 (Parker 70, 90+3, T Harriette 85, Tumwa 90+5)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Gantar (Can)
Sent off: Polius 32, Jamil Joseph 77 (both St Lucia)
Antigua & Barbuda 5-4 on agg

June15 - Hamilton
Bermuda 0
Guatemala 1 (Cincotta 27)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Santander (Mex)
Guatemala1-0 on agg

June16 - Toronto
Canada 4 (Akindele 4, Larin 41, Ricketts 52, 78)
Dominica 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ascani (TCI)
Canada 6-0 on agg

June16 - San Salvador
El Salvador 4 (Ceren 2, N Bonilla 54, 80, Alvarez 62)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (Harris 69)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Davila (Nic)
El Salvador 6-3 on agg

June16 - St George's
Grenada 2 (Morales og 34, Charles 81)
Puerto Rico 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Skeete (Bar)
Grenada 2-1 on agg

June16 - Paramaribo
Surinam 1 (Fer 3)
Nicaragua 3 (Leguias 26, Rosas 51, Chavarria 90)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Clarke (StL)
Sent off: Fer (Surinam) 89
Nicaragua 4-1 on agg

Byes to 3rd round: *Haiti, Jamaica*
Byes to 4th round: *Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, United States*

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS

Group A

June12 - Reykjavik
Iceland 2 (A Gunnarsson 60, Sigthorsson 76)
Czech Republic 1 (Dockal 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,767. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Iceland: Halldorsson - B Saevarsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, A Skulason, B Bjarnason, A Gunnarsson, Hallfredsson (Bodvarsson 63), J Gudmundson, G Sigurdsson, Sigthorsson (R Gislason 90+3).
Czech Republic: Cech - Kaderabek, Sivok, Prochazka, Limbersky, Dockal (Darida 84), Vacha (Skoda 79), Plasil, Pilar (Krejci 67), Necid, Rosicky.

June12 - Almaty
Kazakhstan 0
Turkey 1 (Arda 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,125. **Ref:** Oliver (Eng)
Kazakhstan: Pokatilov - Gurman (Tagybergen 78), Abdulin, Maliy, Logvinenko, Shomko, Konysbayev, Smakov (Beysebekov 67), Schmidtgal, Islamkhan (Kukeyev 85), Khizhnichenko.
Turkey: Volkan Babacan - Gokhan Gonul, Serdar, Semih (Emre Tasdemir 75), Hakan Balta, Ozan (Umut 64), Mehmet Topal (Volkan Sen 46), Selcuk Inan, Calhanoglu, Burak, Arda.

June12 - Riga
Latvia 0
Holland 2 (Wijnaldum 67, Narsingh 71)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,067. **Ref:** Moen (Nor)
Latvia: Vanins - Freimanis (Gabovs 37), Gorkss, Jagodinskis, Maksimenko, Tarasovs, Ikaunieks, Zjuzins, A Visnakovs (Karasausks 75), Rakels, Sabala (E Visnakovs 62).
Holland: Cillessen - Van der Wiel, De Vrij, Martins Indi, Willems (Janmaat 77), Sneijder, Van Persie (Wijnaldum 63), Blind, Narsingh, Huntelaar, Depay (Lens 87).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iceland	6	5	0	1	14	3	15
Czech Rep	6	4	1	1	12	8	13
Holland	6	3	1	2	13	6	10
Turkey	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Latvia	6	0	3	3	2	13	3
Kazakhstan	6	0	1	5	4	14	1

Remaining fixtures
Sep 3 Czech Republic v Kazakhstan
Holland v Iceland
Turkey v Latvia
Sep 6 Iceland v Kazakhstan
Latvia v Czech Republic
Turkey v Holland
Oct 10 Czech Republic v Turkey
Iceland v Latvia
Kazakhstan v Holland
Oct 13 Holland v Czech Republic
Latvia v Kazakhstan
Turkey v Iceland

Group B

June12 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 1 (Dossa Junior og 2)
Cyprus 3 (Mytidis 13, 45, 53)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 1,054. **Ref:** Welz (Ger)
Andorra: Pol - Rubio, Rodrigues, Vales, M Garcia, Rebes (Peppe 79), Ayala (Sonejee 60), Rodriguez, Moreno (Lima 67), C Martinez, Sanchez.
Cyprus: Giorgallides - Demetriou, Sielis, Dossa Junior, Antoniades, Nikolaou, Makrides (Kastanos 88), Laban (Economides 76), Christofi (Alexandrou 82), Mytidis, Efrem.

June12 - Zenica
Bosnia-Herzegovina 3 (Visca 42, 75, Dzeko pen 45+2)
Israel 1 (Tal Ben Haim/F 41)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 12,100. **Ref:** Buquet (Fra)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Begovic - Mujdza, Vranjes, Spahic, Kolasinac, Visca (I Hajrovic 80), Medunjanin, Besic, Lulic (Hadzic 85), Pjanic (Ibisevic 88), Dzeko.
Israel: Marciano - Dgani, Gershon, Tal Ben Haim/D, Ben Harush, Yeini (Damari 46), Natcho, Biton (Kehat 80), Tal Ben Haim/F, Sahar (Buzaglo 62), Zahavi.

June12 - Cardiff
Wales 1 (Bale 25)
Belgium 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 33,280. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, A Williams, Chester, Richards, Allen, Ledley, Ramsey, N Taylor, Robson-Kanu (King 90+3), Bale (Vokes 87).
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld (Ferreira Carrasco 77), Denayer, Lombaerts, Vertonghen, Mertens (Lukaku 46), Nainggolan, Witsel, De Bruyne, Benteke, E Hazard.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	6	4	2	0	8	2	14
Belgium	6	3	2	1	13	2	11
Israel	6	3	0	3	10	9	9
Cyprus	6	3	0	3	12	11	9
Bosnia-Herz	6	2	2	2	8	7	8
Andorra	6	0	0	6	3	23	0

Remaining fixtures
Sep 3 Belgium v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Cyprus v Wales
Israel v Andorra
Sep 6 Bosnia-Herzegovina v Andorra
Cyprus v Belgium
Wales v Israel
Oct 10 Andorra v Belgium
Bosnia-Herzegovina v Wales
Israel v Cyprus
Oct 13 Belgium v Israel
Cyprus v Bosnia-Herzegovina
Wales v Andorra

Group C

June14 - Borisov
Belarus 0
Spain 1 (Silva 45)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,121. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Belarus: Gorbunov - Shitov, Martynovich, Filipenko, Bordachev, Nekhaychik, Kislyak (Dragun 78), Maevski, Volodko (Stasevich 81), Hleb (Putsilo 89), Kornilenko.
Spain: Casillas - Juanfran, Pique, Sergio Ramos, Jordi Alba, Silva (Bernat 85), Busquets, Fabregas (Isco 75), Cazorla, Pedro (Vitolo 65), Morata.

June14 - Zilina
Slovakia 2 (Salata 8, Hamsik 38)
Macedonia 1 (Ademi 69)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 10,765. **Ref:** Hansen (Den)
Slovakia: Kozacik - Pekarik, Skrtel, Salata, Hubocan, Mak, Kucka (Hrosovsky 73), Pecovsky, Weiss, Hamsik (Duda 80), Nemec (Holosko 84).
Macedonia: Pacovski - Todorovski, Mojsov, Dimitrovski, Zhuta, A Ibraimi (Abdurahimi 89), Trajcevski, Hasani, Ademi, Muarem (K Velkoski 82), Trajkovski (M Ivanovski 56). *Sent off: Hasani 84.*

June14 - Lviv
Ukraine 3 (Kravets 49, Harmash 57, Konoplyanka 86)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 21,635. **Ref:** Hunter (NI)
Ukraine: Pyatov - Morozyuk, Khacheridi, Rakitskyi (Kucher 77), Shevchuk, Yarmolenko, Rotan (Harmash 46), Stepanenko, Sydorchuk, Konoplyanka, Kravets (Seleznyov 69).
Luxembourg: Joubert - Jans, Schnell, Chanot, Malget, Holter (Philipps 77), Payal, Gerson, Da Mota (Deville 71), Mutsch, Turpel (Bensi 52).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Slovakia	6	6	0	0	13	3	18
Spain	6	5	0	1	15	3	15
Ukraine	6	4	0	2	9	2	12
Belarus	6	1	1	4	4	11	4
Macedonia	6	1	0	5	6	14	3
Luxembourg	6	0	1	5	3	17	1

Remaining fixtures
Sep 5 Luxembourg v Macedonia
Spain v Slovakia
Ukraine v Belarus
Sep 8 Belarus v Luxembourg
Macedonia v Spain
Slovakia v Ukraine
Oct 9 Macedonia v Ukraine
Slovakia v Belarus
Spain v Luxembourg
Oct 12 Belarus v Macedonia
Luxembourg v Slovakia
Ukraine v Spain

Group D

June13 - Faro-Loule, Portugal
Gibraltar 0
Germany 7 (Schurrle 28, 65, 71, Kruse 47, 81, Gundogan 51, Bellarabi 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 7,467. **Ref:** Pisani (Mlt)
Gibraltar: J Perez - Garcia, R Chipolina, R Casciaro, J Chipolina, Gosling, Walker, Payas (Sergeant 82), K Casciaro (Bosio 78), L Casciaro, Priestley (Coombes 61).
Germany: Weidenfeller - Rudy, Boateng, Hector, Herrmann (Podolski 56), Ozil, Schweinsteiger, Gundogan (Khedira 67), Bellarabi, Gotze (Kruse 36), Schurrle.

June13 - Warsaw
Poland 4 (Milik 62, Lewandowski 89, 90+2, 90+3)
Georgia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 56,512. **Ref:** Kulbakov (Bls)
Poland: Fabianski - Piszczek, Szukala, Pazdan (Komorowski 90), Rybus, Grosicki (Jodlowiec 80), Maczynski, Krychowiak, Peszko (Blaszczykowski 64), Lewandowski, Milik.
Georgia: Loria - Lobzhanidze, Kashia, Amisulashvili, Dvali, Navalovski, Okriashvili (Daushvili 46), Kobakhidze (Tskhadadze 76), Ananidze, Kazaishvili, Vatsadze (Chanturia 63).

June13 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 1 (Walters 38)
Scotland 1 (O'Shea og 47)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 49,063. **Ref:** Rizzoli (Ita)
Rep Ireland: Given - Coleman, O'Shea, Wilson, Brady, Hendrick, Whelan (McClean 68), McCarthy, Hoolahan (Keane 73), Walters, Murphy (Long 80).
Scotland: Marshall - Hutton, R Martin, Mulgrew, Forsyth, Ritchie (Anya 46), Brown (McArthur 85), Morrison, Naismith (Berra 90+2), Maloney, S Fletcher.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	6	4	2	0	20	3	14
Germany	6	4	1	1	16	4	13
Scotland	6	3	2	1	12	6	11
Rep Ireland	6	2	3	1	12	5	9
Georgia	6	1	0	5	4	13	3
Gibraltar	6	0	0	6	1	34	0

Remaining fixtures
Sep 4 Georgia v Scotland
Germany v Poland
Gibraltar v Republic of Ireland
Sep 7 Poland v Gibraltar
Republic of Ireland v Georgia
Scotland v Germany
Oct 8 Georgia v Gibraltar
Republic of Ireland v Germany
Scotland v Poland
Oct 11 Germany v Georgia
Gibraltar v Scotland
Poland v Republic of Ireland

Group E

June14 - Tallinn
Estonia 2 (Zenjov 35, 63)
San Marino 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 6,131. **Ref:** Kruzliak (Slk)
Estonia: Aksalu - Teniste, Mets, Klavan, Kallaste, Alliku, Lindpere (Kruglov 84), Aleksandr Dmitrijev, Vassiljev (Antonov 79), Zenjov (Teever 89), Purje.
San Marino: A Simoncini - Bonini, Brolli, Alessandro Della Valle, Palazzi, Battistini, Hirsch, Tosi (Cervellini 71), L Gasperoni, M Vitaioli (Bianchi 89), Rinaldi (Stefanelli 79).

June14 - Vilnius
Lithuania 1 (Cernych 64)
Switzerland 2 (Drmic 69, Shaqiri 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,786. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
Lithuania: Zubas - Vaitkunas, Mikuckis, Klimavicius, Andriuskevicius, D Cesnauskis (Luksa 86), Panka, Slivka (Vicius 76), Zulpa (Chvedukas 61), Cernych, Matulevicius.
Switzerland: Sommer - Lichtsteiner, Schar, Djourou, Rodriguez, Behrami, Inler (Dzemaili 57), Xhaka, Shaqiri, Seferovic (Mehmedi 57), Drmic (Embolo 81).

June14 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 2 (Novakovic 37, Pecnik 84)
England 3 (Wilshere 57, 73, Rooney 86)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,796. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko, Ilic, Cesar, Jokic, Mertelj, Kurtic (Lazarevic 79), Ilicic (Birsa 61), Kampl, Kirm (Pecnik 72), Novakovic.
England: Hart - Jones (Lallana 46), Cahill, Smalling, Gibbs, Henderson, Wilshere, Delph (Clyne 85), Sterling, Rooney, Townsend (Walcott 74).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	6	6	0	0	18	3	18
Switzerland	6	4	0	2	13	4	12
Slovenia	6	3	0	3	12	7	9
Estonia	6	2	1	3	3	5	7
Lithuania	6	2	0	4	4	12	6
San Marino	6	0	1	5	0	19	1

Remaining fixtures
Sep 5 Estonia v Lithuania
San Marino v England
Switzerland v Slovenia
Sep 8 England v Switzerland
Lithuania v San Marino
Slovenia v Estonia
Oct 9 England v Estonia
Slovenia v Lithuania
Switzerland v San Marino
Oct 12 Estonia v Switzerland
Lithuania v England
San Marino v Slovenia

Group F

June13 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 2 (Hansson 32, B Olsen 70)
Greece 1 (Papastathopoulos 84)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,741. **Ref:** Hagen (Nor)
Faroe Islands: Nielsen - B Hansen, Gregersen, Nattestad, Sorensen (J Davidsen 13), Holst (Faero 74), Benjaminsen, Vatnhamar, Hansson, Edmundsson (R Joensen 90+2), B Olsen.
Greece: Karnezis - Torosidis, Papastathopoulos, Manolas, Stafylidis, Kone (Fountas 81), Samaris, Christodoulopoulos (Ninis 46), Karelis, Mitroglou, Fetfatzidis (Kolovos 71).

June13 - Helsinki
Finland 0
Hungary 1 (Stieber 82)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,434. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
Finland: Hradecky - Arkivuo, Halsti, N Moisander, Raitala, Mattila (Pohjanpalo 85), Sparv, P Hetemaj, Hamalainen, Pukki (Riku Riski 46), R Eremenko.
Hungary: Kiraly - Fiola, Juhasz, Lang, Kadar, Stieber, Priskin (Nemeth 46), Tozser, Dzsudzsak (A Simon 88), Gera, Szalai (Nikolic 77).

June13 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 0
Romania 0
Att: 10,000. **Ref:** Velasco Carballo (Spa)
Northern Ireland: McGovern - C McLaughlin, McAuley, J Evans (Cathcart 79), Brunt, Norwood, Davis, Baird, Ward (C Evans 79), K Lafferty, Dallas.
Romania: Tatarusanu - Papp, D Grigore, Chiriches, Sepsi, Prepelita, Pintilii, Torje, Maxim (Tamas 90), Chipciu (Stancu 61), Keseru (Andone 72).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	6	4	2	0	7	1	14
N Ireland	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Hungary	6	3	2	1	5	3	11
Faroe Islands	6	2	0	4	4	8	6
Finland	6	1	1	4	5	8	4
Greece	6	0	2	4	2	7	2

Remaining fixtures
Sep 4 Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland
Greece v Finland
Hungary v Romania
Sep 7 Finland v Faroe Islands
Northern Ireland v Hungary
Romania v Greece
Oct 8 Hungary v Faroe Islands
Northern Ireland v Greece
Romania v Finland
Oct 11 Faroe Islands v Romania
Finland v Northern Ireland
Greece v Hungary

Group G

June14 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 1 (Wieser 20)
Moldova 1 (Boghiu 43)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 2,080. **Ref:** Kovarik (CzR)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Yildiz, Frick, Kaufmann, Oehri (Kuhne 42), M Buchel (Gubser 69), Polverino, Wieser, A Christen, Erne (Brandle 83), Burgmeier.
Moldova: Cebanu - Racu, Epureanu (Carp 46), Armas, Dedov, Gatcan, Cojocari, Patras (Antoniuc 89), Erhan, Boghiu, Cheptine (Milinceanu 37).

June14 - Moscow
Russia 0
Austria 1 (Janko 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 33,750. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
Russia: Akinfeev - Smolnikov, V Berezutsky (Chernov 12), Novoseltsev, Kombarov (Kerzhakov 71), Shatov, Shirokov, Glushakov, Ivanov (Miranchuk 46), Zhirkov, Kokorin.
Austria: Almer - Klein, Dragovic, Hinteregger, Fuchs, Harnik (Sabitzer 65), Ilsanker, Baumgartlinger, Arnautovic, Junuzovic (Prodl 86), Janko (Okotie 75).

June14 - Stockholm
Sweden 3 (Berg 37, Ibrahimovic 40, 44)
Montenegro 1 (Damjanovic pen 64)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 32,224. **Ref:** Gocek (Tur)
Sweden: Isaksson - P Bengtsson, E Johansson, Milosevic, Wendt, S Larsson, Kallstrom (Wernbloom 72), Ekdal, Zengin (Forsberg 64), Ibrahimovic (Toivonen 90), Berg.
Montenegro: Poleksic - Zverotic (Saveljich 58), Savic, Simic (Balic 74), Tomasevic, N Vukcevic, Kascelan (Boljevic 46), Marusic, Mugosa, Beciraj, Damjanovic.

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	5	1	0	11	2	16
Sweden	6	3	3	0	10	4	12
Russia	6	2	2	2	9	4	8
Montenegro	6	1	2	3	4	8	5
Liechtenstein	6	1	2	3	2	12	5
Moldova	6	0	2	4	3	9	2

Remaining fixtures
Sep 5 Austria v Moldova
Montenegro v Liechtenstein
Russia v Sweden
Sep 8 Liechtenstein v Russia
Moldova v Montenegro
Sweden v Austria
Oct 9 Liechtenstein v Sweden
Moldova v Russia
Montenegro v Austria
Oct 12 Austria v Liechtenstein
Russia v Montenegro
Sweden v Moldova

Group H
June12 - Split
Croatia 1 (Mandzukic 11)
Italy 1 (Candreva pen 36)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Played behind closed doors
Croatia: Subasic - Srna, Vida, Schildenfeld, Pranjic (Vrsaljko 72), Rakitic, Brozovic, Perisic, Kovacic (Leovac 90+2), Olic (Rebic 46), Mandzukic. *Sent off: Srna 89.*
Italy: Buffon (Sirigu 46) - De Silvestri (De Sciglio 27), Bonucci, Astori, Darmian, Candreva, Parolo, Pirlo, Marchisio, El Shaarawy (Ranocchia 80), Pelle.

June12 - Valletta
Malta 0
Bulgaria 1 (I Popov 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,924. **Ref:** Stavrev (Mac)
Malta: Haber - A Muscat (Herrera 63), Agius, Camilleri, Z Muscat, P Fenech, Briffa (Schembri 76), R Muscat, Failla, M Mifsud (Cohen 84), Effiong.
Bulgaria: Mitrev - Bandalovski, A Aleksandrov, Bodurov, Y Minev, Gadzhev, Manolev, I Popov (Chochev 81), M Aleksandrov (G Milanov 75), Dyakov, Micanski (R Vasilev 90).

June12 - Oslo
Norway 0
Azerbaijan 0
Att: 21,228. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Norway: Nyland - Elabdellaoui, Forren, Hovland, Hogli, Odegaard, Johansen, Nordtveit, Skjelbred (Helland 52), King (Diomande 79), Soderlund (Eikrem 68).
Azerbaijan: K Agayev - Medvedev, B Huseynov, R F Sadygov, Dashdemirov, C Huseynov, Qarayev, Amirguliyev, Ismayilov, R Kurbanov (Nadirov 81), Nazarov (M Kurbanov 90+3).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	6	4	2	0	16	3	14
Italy	6	3	3	0	9	5	12
Norway	6	3	1	2	7	8	10
Bulgaria	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Azerbaijan	6	1	1	4	4	11	4
Malta	6	0	1	5	1	10	1

Remaining fixtures
Sep 3 Azerbaijan v Croatia
Bulgaria v Norway
Italy v Malta
Sep 6 Italy v Bulgaria
Malta v Azerbaijan
Norway v Croatia
Oct 10 Azerbaijan v Italy
Croatia v Bulgaria
Norway v Malta
Oct 13 Bulgaria v Azerbaijan
Italy v Norway
Malta v Croatia

Group I
June13 - Yerevan
Armenia 2 (Pizzelli 14, Mkoyan 72)
Portugal 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 29, 55, 58)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 14,403. **Ref:** Gumienny (Blg)
Armenia: Berezovsky - Mkoyan, Arzumanyan, Andonyan, Hayrapetyan, Mkrtchyan (Hovsepyan 29), Hovhannisyan (Ozbiliz 61), Mkhitaryan, Pizzelli, Ghazaryan, Sarkisov (Korian 72).
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Vieirinha, Ricardo Carvalho (Jose Fonte 78), Bruno Alves, Eliseu, Fabio Coentrao (Adrien Silva 72), Tiago, Joao Moutinho, Cristiano Ronaldo, Danny (William Carvalho 63), Nani. *Sent off: Tiago 61.*

June13 - Copenhagen
Denmark 2 (Y Poulsen 13, J Poulsen 87)
Serbia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,887. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Jacobsen, Kjaer, Agger, S Poulsen, Hojbjerg, Kvist (Christensen 77), Krohn-Dehli (J Poulsen 61), Y Poulsen (Vibe 73), Bendtner, Eriksen.
Serbia: Stojkovic - Ivanovic, Maksimovic, Nastasic, Kolarov, Fejsa, Matic, Z Tosic (Kostic 65), Ljajic (Djuricic 81), L Markovic, A Mitrovic (Skuletic 90).

EURO 2016 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	5	4	0	1	7	4	12
Denmark	5	3	1	1	8	4	10
Albania[1]	4	2	1	1	4	5	7
Serbia[1]	5	1	1	3	6	8	1
Armenia	5	0	1	4	5	9	1

[1]The abandoned Serbia v Albania game on Oct14 was awarded as a 3-0 win to Serbia, but Serbia also had 3pts deducted

Remaining fixtures
Sep 4 Denmark v Albania
Serbia v Armenia
Sep 7 Albania v Portugal
Armenia v Denmark
Oct 8 Albania v Serbia
Portugal v Denmark
Oct 11 Armenia v Albania
Serbia v Portugal

● *The top 2 in each group and the 3rd-placed team with the best record[1] will qualify directly for the 24-team finals; the other 3rd-placed teams will be paired in 4 head-to-head, 2-leg ties, the winners of which will also qualify for the finals. Hosts France qualify automatically*
[1]Determined by results against the teams finishing1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups

2017 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Group A
June12 - Rades
Tunisia 8 (Chikhaoui pen 9, 21, 23, Sassi 37, Khelifa 62, F Ben Youssef 69, Hannachi 79, Touzghar 81)
Djibouti 1 (Liban pen 54)
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** El Jaafari (Mor)
Tunisia: Ben Cherifia - Agrebi, Yacoubi, S Ben Youssef, Maaloul (Gouaida 84), Sassi, Reguii, Chikhaoui, Khelifa (Hannachi 75), Khazri (F Ben Youssef 65), Touzghar.

June14 - Lome
Togo 2 (Ouro-Akoriko 63, Adebayor 87)
Liberia 1 (Jebor 43)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Dembele (IvC)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia	1	1	0	0	8	1	3
Togo	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Liberia	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Djibouti	1	0	0	1	1	8	0

Group B
June13 - Lubango
Angola 4 (Gelson 35, 63, Dolly Menga pen 57, Gilberto pen 90)
Central African Republic 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Lengani (Mwi)

June14 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 2 (Mubele 58, Kimwaki 73)
Madagascar 1 (Vombola 76)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Woungui (Gab)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Angola	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
DR Congo	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Madagascar	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Cent Af Rep	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Group C
June13 - Bamako
Mali 2 (Maiga 17, S Coulibaly 29)
South Sudan 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Amao (Nga)

June14 - Bata
Equatorial Guinea 1 (Nsue 49)
Benin 1 (Sessegnon 44)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Gomes (SAf)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mali	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Benin	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Equat Guinea	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
South Sudan	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group D
June13 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 2 (Bance 61, Zongo 82)
Comoros 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tsiba (Con)

June13 - Kampala
Uganda 2 (Massa 54, Umony 64)
Botswana 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mujuni (Tan)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Uganda	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Botswana	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Comoros	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group E
June13 - Ndola
Zambia 0
Guinea-Bissau 0
Ref: Martins de Carvalho (Ang)

June14 - Owando
Congo 1 (Oniangue pen 37)
Kenya 1 (Were 10)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Nkurunziza (Bdi)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kenya	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Congo	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Guinea-Bissau	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Zambia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1

Group F
June12 - Agadir
Morocco 1 (El Kaddouri 50)
Libya 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Agbovi (Gha)
Morocco: Munir - Chafik, Benatia, El Adoua, Lazaar, Obbadi, Kharja, El Kaddouri, Amrabat (Mastour 89), Hamdallah (Chahechoue 80), Iajour (Assaidi 63).

June13 - Praia
Cape Verde 7 (Djaniny 11, 73, Nuno Rocha pen 17, Garry Rodrigues 35, Odair Fortes 42, Babanco pen 51, Julio Tavares 75)
Sao Tome e Principe 1 (Leal 54)
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Ashour (Egy)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cape Verde	1	1	0	0	7	1	3
Morocco	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Libya	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Sao Tome	1	0	0	1	1	7	0

Group G
June13 - Kaduna
Nigeria 2 (Salami 63, Ighalo pen 80)
Chad 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Mamane (Nig)
Nigeria: Enyeama - Omeruo, Troost-Ekong, Madu, Esiti, Balogun, Onazi, Babatunde (Ibrahim 60), Samuel (Ighalo 60), Musa, Salami (Ogu 84). *Sent off: Onazi 79.*

June14 - Borg El Arab
Egypt 3 (Rabia 60, Morsi 64, M Salah 67)
Tanzania 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Tessema Weyesa (Eth)
Egypt: El Shenawy - Emam, Hegazy, Rabia, Abdel Shafy, Kahraba (Sobhy 66), I Salah, El Nenny, M Salah (Fathi 72), El Gabbas (Morsi 57), Mekky.

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Egypt	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Chad	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Tanzania	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

Group H
June14 - Accra
Ghana 7 (Atsu 10, J Ayew 20, 38, Gyan 22, 29, Schlupp 69, Accam 88)
Mauritius 1 (Sophie 31)
HT: 5-1. **Ref:** Gomes (GuB)
Ghana: Brimah - Afful (Amartey 84), Rahman, Boye, J Mensah, Schlupp (Accam 71), Atsu, Wakaso, Agyemang-Badu (B Mensah 76), Gyan, J Ayew.

June14 - Maputo
Mozambique 0
Rwanda 1 (Sugira 3)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ngambo (DRC)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	1	1	0	0	7	1	3
Rwanda	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Mozambique	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mauritius	1	0	0	1	1	7	0

Group I
June14 - Khartoum
Sudan 1 (Alagab pen 77)
Sierra Leone 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Batte (Uga)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sudan	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Ivory Coast	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

Group J
June13 - Blida
Algeria 4 (Slimani 22, Soudani 34, 47, Bentaleb 90+2)
Seychelles 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Hamada (Mra)
Algeria: Doukha - Zeffane, Mandi, Medjani, Ghoulam, Bentaleb, Taider (Chenihi 75), Mahrez, Boudebouz, Soudani (Belfodil 64), Slimani (Abeid 85).

June14 - Addis Ababa
Ethiopia 2 (Gatoch 68, Saladin Said 78)
Lesotho 1 (Mothoana 41)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Diedhiou (Sen)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP J	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Ethiopia	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Lesotho	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Seychelles	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Group K
June13 - Dakar
Senegal 3 (Konate pen 15, M B Diouf 63, S Mane 90)
Burundi 1 (Abdul Razak 59)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Keita (Mli)

June14 - Niamey
Niger 1 (Sacko pen 39)
Namibia 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Jallow (Gam)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP K	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Niger	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Namibia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Burundi	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Group L

June12 - Casablanca, Morocco
Guinea 1 (Kamano 67)
Swaziland 2 (Tsabedze 11, 83)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Timas (CVI)

June13 - Blantyre
Malawi 1 (J Banda 24)
Zimbabwe 2 (Malajila 23, Billiat 83)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Nde (Cam)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP L	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swaziland	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Zimbabwe	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Guinea	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Malawi	1	0	0	1	1	2	0

Group M

June13 - Durban
South Africa 0
Gambia 0
Ref: Nampiandraza (Mad)
South Africa: Khune - Ngcongca, Coetzee, Hlatshwayo, Matlaba, Jali, Mahlangu, Serero (Ntshangase 65), Manyisa (Masango 39), Patosi, Gabuza (Phala 70).

June14 - Yaounde
Cameroon 1 (Aboubakar 90)
Mauritania 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Keita (Gui)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP M	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Gambia	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
South Africa	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Mauritania	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

● *The13 group winners and the 2 runners-up with the best record (excluding 3-team Group I) will qualify for the16-team finals. Hosts Gabon qualify automatically*

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP

Played in New Zealand

Group A

May 30: New Zealand 0 Ukraine 0; United States 2 Myanmar 1.
June 2: Myanmar 0 Ukraine 6; New Zealand 0 United States 4.
June 5: Myanmar 1 New Zealand 5; Ukraine 3 United States 0.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine (Q)	3	2	1	0	9	0	7
USA (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
N Zealand (Q)	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Myanmar	3	0	0	3	2	13	0

Group B

May 30: Argentina 2 Panama 2; Ghana 1 Austria 1.
June 2: Austria 2 Panama 1; Argentina 2 Ghana 3.
June 5: Austria 0 Argentina 0; Panama 0 Ghana 1.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana (Q)	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
Austria (Q)	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
Argentina	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
Panama	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Group C

May 31: Qatar 0 Colombia 1; Portugal 3 Senegal 0.
June 3: Qatar 0 Portugal 4; Senegal 1 Colombia 1.
June 6: Senegal 2 Qatar 1; Colombia 1 Portugal 3.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal (Q)	3	3	0	0	10	1	9
Colombia (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
Senegal (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
Qatar	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

Group D

May 31: Mexico 0 Mali 2; Uruguay 1 Serbia 0.
June 3: Mexico 2 Uruguay 1; Serbia 2 Mali 0.
June 6: Serbia 2 Mexico 0; Mali 1 Uruguay 1.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	1	6
Uruguay (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Mali (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Mexico	3	1	0	2	2	5	3

Group E

June 1: Nigeria 2 Brazil 4; North Korea 1 Hungary 5.
June 4: Nigeria 4 North Korea 0; Hungary 1 Brazil 2.
June 7: Hungary 0 Nigeria 2; Brazil 3 North Korea 0.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil (Q)	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
Nigeria (Q)	3	2	0	1	8	4	6
Hungary (Q)	3	1	0	2	6	5	3
North Korea	3	0	0	3	1	12	0

Group F

June 1: Germany 8 Fiji 1; Uzbekistan 3 Honduras 4.
June 4: Honduras 0 Fiji 3; Germany 3 Uzbekistan 0.
June 7: Honduras 1 Germany 5; Fiji 0 Uzbekistan 3.

UNDER-20 WORLD CUP – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany (Q)	3	3	0	0	16	2	9
Uzbekistan (Q)	3	1	0	2	6	7	3
Honduras	3	1	0	2	5	11	3
Fiji	3	1	0	2	4	11	3

● *The top 2 in each group and the 4 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for the1st knockout round*

1st knockout round (last 16)

June 10: Ghana 0 Mali 3; Serbia 2 Hungary 1 (aet); United States 1 Colombia 0; Ukraine 1 Senegal 1 (aet, Senegal 3-1 on pens).
June 11: Austria 0 Uzbekistan 2; Germany 1 Nigeria 0; Portugal 2 New Zealand 1; Brazil 0 Uruguay 0 (aet, Brazil 5-4 on pens).

Quarter-finals

June 14: Brazil 0 Portugal 0 (aet, Brazil 3-1 on pens); Mali 1 Germany 1 (aet, Mali 4-3 on pens); United States 0 Serbia 0 (aet, Serbia 6-5 on pens); Uzbekistan 0 Senegal 1.

Semi-finals

June 17: Brazil 5 Senegal 0; Serbia 2 Mali 1 (aet).

3rd-place match

June 20: Senegal 1 Mali 3.

Final

June 20 - Auckland (North Harbour)
Brazil 1 (Andreas Pereira 73)
Serbia 2 (Mandic 70, Maksimovic 118)
Aet. **HT:** 0-0. **90mins:** 1-1. **Att:** 25,317.
Ref: Al Mirdasi (Sau)
Brazil: Jean - Joao Pedro, Lucao, Marlon, Jorge, Danilo, Jaja (Malcom 74), Boschilia (Andreas Pereira 65), Marcos Guilherme, Gabriel Jesus (Alef 90+1), Jean Carlos.
Serbia: Rajkovic - Gajic, Veljkovic, Babic, Antonov, Zdjelar, Maksimovic, S Milinkovic-Savic (Jovanovic 82), Saponjic (Ilic 95), Zivkovic, Mandic (Gacinovic 76).

FRIENDLIES

Tuesday, June 9

June 9 - Mons, Belgium
Cameroon 1 (Bedimo 39)
DR Congo 1 (Botaka 11)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Laforge (Blg)
Cameroon: Ondoa - Ndassi, Chedjou (N'Koulou 86), Mandjang, Bedimo, Mbia (Kom 46), Enoh, Mengolo (Kweuke 46), Moukandjo (Zoua 62), Etoundi (Toko Ekambi 46), Aboubakar (Ndi 71).
DR Congo: Mandanda - Nsakala, Mbemba, Kimwaki, Zakuani, Kamavuaka (Mavinga 81), Nzuzi (Oualembo 72), Nkololo (Mulumbu 67), Botaka (Lukoki 62), Bakambu (Tshibumbu 81), Bolasie.

June 9 - Turku
Finland 0
Estonia 2 (Purje 28, 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 6,107. **Ref:** Kehlet (Den)
Finland: Maenpaa - N Moisander (Halsti 61), Toivio, R Eremenko, P Hetemaj (Lod 84), Riku Riski (Markkanen 73), Kauko (Pukki 46), Pohjanpalo (Vayrynen 46), Raitala, Lam, Rotenberg (Sumusalo 46).
Estonia: Pareiko - Pikk, Jurgenson (Gussev 90), Klavan, Kallaste, Alliku (Kams 46), Aleksandr Dmitrijev, Antonov (Vassiljev 64), Lindpere (Kruglov 46), Purje (Henri Anier 64), Zenjov (Artjom Dmitrijev 79).

June 9 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Moldova 0
Att: 1,122. **Ref:** Siebert (Ger)
Luxembourg: Joubert - Jans, Chanot, Schnell, Janisch (Malget 27), Holter (Payal 46), Philipps (Gerson 63), Martins (Duriatti 46), Da Mota (Turpel 46), Bensi (Deville 63), Mutsch.
Moldova: Calancea (Cebanu 46) - Armas, Epureanu (Jardan 60), Erhan (Antoniuc 86), Racu, Cojocari, Cheptine (Cociuc 76), Patras, Dedov, Boghiu (Milinceanu 46), Carp (Rata 66).

June 9 - Kampala
Uganda 1 (Ssentongo 61)
Gambia 1 (Jagne 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,900. **Ref:** Batte (Uga)
Uganda: Onyango (Odongkara 46) - Guma, Kakuba, Isinde, Kasaga, Tekkwo (Mugerwa 46), Khalid, Miya (Bakaki 63), Massa (Zirintusa 63), Sentamu (Umony 46), Majwega (Ssentongo 46).
Gambia: Jobe (Allen 65) - Carayol, Barrow, Nyassi, Marreh (Jagne 70), Nyan (Savage 70), Touray, Sanneh, Koli, Ngum, Barry (Ceesay 49).

June 9 - Linz, Austria
Ukraine 2 (Kravets 57, Konoplyanka 67)
Georgia 1 (Vatsadze 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 700. **Ref:** Hameter (Aut)
Ukraine: Boyko - Morozyuk, Khacheridi, Rakitskyi, Stepanenko (Shevchuk 46), Konoplyanka (Oliynyk 75), Rotan (Tymoshchuk 46), Harmash (Rybalka 46), Husiev (Sydorchuk 46), Ksyonz, Selezynov (Kravets 46).
Georgia: Loria - Lobzhanidze (Aladashvili 71), Kazaishvili (Vatsadze 71), Kashia (Salukvadze 46), Amisulashvili, Dvali, Navalovski, Ananidze, Kobakhidze, Okriashvili (Kenia 46), Tskhadadze (Chanturia 46).

Wednesday, June 10

June10 - Porto Alegre
Brazil 1 (Roberto Firmino 33)
Honduras 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,305. **Ref:** Vargas (Bol)
Brazil: Jefferson - Fabinho (Marquinhos 74), Miranda, David Luiz (Thiago Silva 46), Filipe Luis, Casemiro, Fernandinho, Willian (Douglas Costa 46), Philippe Coutinho (Neymar 46), Fred (Elias 79), Roberto Firmino (Robinho 70).
Honduras: Valladares - Beckeles, J Palacios, H Figueroa, Leveron, Izaguirre (B Garcia 86), Najar (C Mejia 75), Acosta (Discua 84), Garrido (A Mejia 46), O Garcia (M Martinez 37), Lozano (Andino 73).

June10 - Cologne
Germany 1 (Gotze 12)
United States 2 (Diskerud 41, Wood 88)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 40,348. **Ref:** Makkelie (Hol)
Germany: Zieler - Rudy, Mustafi, Rudiger, Hector, Schweinsteiger (Khedira 46), Gundogan (Kramer 60), Herrmann (Bellarabi 73), Ozil, Schurrle (Podolski 46), Gotze (Kruse 73).
United States: Guzan - Chandler, Alvarado, Brooks, F Johnson (Evans 46), Williams (Beckerman 46), Zardes (Wood 74), Bradley, Diskerud (Morales 74), Johannsson (Morris 74), Agudelo (Yedlin 46).

June10 - Thun
Switzerland 3 (Dzemaili 29, 68, Shaqiri 60)
Liechtenstein 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 8,100. **Ref:** Trutz (Slk)
Switzerland: Hitz - Lichtsteiner (Fernandes 46), Klose, Von Bergen (Djourou 46), Behrami (Widmer 46), Shaqiri (Embolo 63), Dzemaili (Lang 74), Moubandje, Mehmedi, Kasami, Drmic (Stocker 46).
Liechtenstein: Jehle (Bicer 46) - A Christen, Kaufmann, Frick, Oehri (Wolfinger 67), Yildiz, Polverino, N Hasler (Gubser 63), Burgmeier (Brandle 80), M Buchel (Kieber 77), Kuhne (Salanovic 53).

Thursday, June 11

June11 - Yokohama
Japan 4 (Honda 5, Makino 9, Okazaki 32, Haraguchi 84)
Iraq 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 63,877. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)
Japan: Kawashima - Nagatomo, Makino, Yoshida, H Sakai, Hasebe (Taniguchi 76), Kagawa (Haraguchi 66), Shibasaki (Yamaguchi 85), Okazaki (Osako 73), Honda (Nagai 66), Usami (Muto 66).
Iraq: Hassan - Samal Saeed (Sameh Saeed 46), Shaker, Ismail (Bahjat 88), Abdul-Amir, Salman (Wahid 70), Yasin, Tariq, Sulaka, Meram (Kasim 55), Radhi (M Hussein 72).

June11 - Shah Alam, Malaysia
South Korea 3 (Yeom Ki-hun 44, Lee Yong-jae 60, Lee Jeong-hyeop 90)
United Arab Emirates 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 1,080. **Ref:** Vo (Vie)
South Korea: Kim Seung-gyu - Kim Jin-su (Lee Ju-yong 70), Jang Hyun-soo, Kwak Tae-hwi (Hong Jeong-ho 46), Jeong Dong-ho, Jung Woo-young, Han Kook-young, Son Heung-min (Lee Chung-yong 46), Yeom Ki-hun (Nam Tae-hee 46), Lee Jae-sung (Ju Se-jong 81), Lee Yong-jae (Lee Jeong-hyeop 61).
UAE: Eisa - Omar (Al Akbari 46), Abbas, A Abdulrahman (Al Hammadi 46), Salem (Al Kathiri 46), O Abdulrahman, Khalil (Hassan 46), Esmaeel (Al Fardan 68), Sanqour, I Ahmed, Al Ahbabi.

June11 - Leon
Spain 2 (Paco Alcacer 7, Fabregas 30)
Costa Rica 1 (Venegas 5)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Vuckov (Cro)
Spain: De Gea - Carvajal, Bartra, Sergio Ramos (Pique 57), Bernat, San Jose (Busquets 73), Koke (Cazorla 58), Aleix Vidal (Vitolo 46), Fabregas (Isco 82), Paco Alcacer, Nolito (Silva 58).
Costa Rica: Navas - Gamboa, Umana, Gonzalez, Miller, Diaz (Aguilar 80), Borges (Saborio 88), Guzman (Cubero 68), B Ruiz, Campbell, Venegas (Vega 66).

June11 - Tashkent
Uzbekistan 0
Iran 1 (Torabi 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Tseytlin (Uzb)
Uzbekistan: Nesterov - Mukhamadiev (Shorakhmedov 77), Denisov (Musayev 46), Ismailov, Mulladjanov, Rashidov, Akhmedov (Sayfiyev 46), Haydarov (L Turaev 63), Alibaev, Sergeev (Nasimov 70), Kuziboyev (Tursunov 45).
Iran: A Haghighi - Ghafouri, Montazeri, Kanaani, Hajsafy, Ezatolahi (Mohammadi 65), Teymourian (O Ebrahimi 46), Amiri (Torabi 46), Taromi (Azmoun 46), Shojaei (Heydari 46), Ghoochannejhad (Sharifi 46).

Saturday, June 13

June13 - Elbasan
Albania 1 (Kace 43)
France 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,000. **Ref:** Ozkahya (Tur)
Albania: Berisha - Hysaj, Cana, Ajeti, Aliji, Basha (Lilaj 72), Kace (Balaj 80), Lila (Memushaj 18), Roshi (Sadiku 64), Lenjani (Rama 56), Cikalleshi (Fejzullahu 88).
France: Lloris - Jallet (Sagna 72), Varane, Sakho, Evra, Gonalons (Valbuena 59), Kondogbia, Lacazette, Payet (Pogba 46), Griezmann (Ntep 59), Giroud (Fekir 46).

Sunday, June 14

June14 - Libreville
Gabon 0
Ivory Coast 0

Tuesday, June 16

June16 - Geneva, Switzerland
Italy 0
Portugal 1 (Eder 52)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,024. **Ref:** Studer (Swi)
Italy: Sirigu - De Sciglio (Pasqual 73), Bonucci, Ranocchia, Darmian, Soriano (Vazquez 58), Pirlo, Bertolacci (Parolo 76), Candreva (Gabbiadini 65), Immobile (Matri 73), El Shaarawy (Sansone 68).
Portugal: Beto - Vieirinha (Cedric 46), Jose Fonte, Bruno Alves (Daniel Carrico 59), Fabio Coentrao (Eliseu 25), Joao Moutinho, Danilo, Tiago (Adrien Silva 46), Quaresma (Pizzi 86), Eder, Varela (Nani 76).

June16 - Irbid
Jordan 3 (Al Dardour 16, Deeb 24, Al Saify 71)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 2-0

June 16 - Gdansk
Poland 0
Greece 0
Att: 37,192. **Ref:** Bieri (Swi) – injured; Borski (Pol)
Poland: Boruc (Szczesny 46) - Cionek, Glik, Pazdan, Komorowski, Borysiuk (Szukala 87), Linetty (Maczynski 60), Blaszczykowski (Peszko 60), Zielinski (Mila 60), Grosicki, Milik (Rybus 78).
Greece: Kapino (Vellidis 90+3) - Vyntra, Moras, Papastathopoulos (Tavlaridis 46), Stafylidis, Tziolis, Katsouranis (Samaris 90+2), Tachtsidis, Fountas (Kolovos 77), Karelis (Mitroglou 60), Ninis (Fetfatzidis 71).

June 16 - Cape Town
South Africa 2 (Gabuza 45+2, Filipe Malanda og 68)
Angola 1 (Alexandre Cristovao 25)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 8,112. **Ref:** Mohau (Les)
South Africa: Khune - Ngcongca (Nyauza 83), Daniels (Hlatshwayo 72), Coetzee, Phungwayo (Matlaba 59), Zungu, Shongwe (Jali 83), Patosi (Masango 89), Serero, Mahlangu, Gabuza (Ntuli 64).
Angola: Landu - Mingo Bille (Filipe Malanda 61), Kuagica, Fabricio, Paizo, Job (Ary Papel 61), Paty (Gilberto 69), Manucho Dinis, Mano (Amaro 72), Alexandre Cristovao (Gerson 69), Dany (Pirolito 46).

Saturday, June 27
June 27 - Orlando, USA
Mexico 2 (G Dos Santos 53, J Hernandez 55)
Costa Rica 2 (Ramirez 4, Layun og 36)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 53,629. **Ref:** Jurisevic (USA)
Mexico: Ochoa - Aguilar, F Rodriguez, Reyes, Moreno (Vazquez 46), Layun, H Herrera (J Dos Santos 78), Guardado (Torres Nilo 80), Vela (Esquivel 46), G Dos Santos (Peralta 80), J Hernandez.
Costa Rica: Alvarado - Gamboa, Gonzalez, Miller (Calvo 79), Diaz, Borges, Cubero (Guzman 79), B Ruiz (Aguilar 82), Venegas (Vega 58), Campbell (Saborio 83), Ramirez (Umana 69).

Wednesday, July 1
July1 - Houston, USA
Honduras 0
Mexico 0
Att: 70,128. **Ref:** Villarreal (USA)
Honduras: Escober - Beckeles, J Palacios, H Figueroa, M Figueroa, B Garcia (Crisanto 57), Acosta (Discua 85), Mejia (Claros 63), M Martinez (O Garcia 76), Najar (Quioto 82), Lozano (Castillo 69).
Mexico: Ochoa - Aguilar, F Rodriguez, Reyes, Layun, Vazquez, H Herrera (J M Corona 62), Guardado (Duenas 85), Esquivel (J Dos Santos 75), Vela (G Dos Santos 57), J Hernandez (Peralta 41).

Friday, July 3
July 3 - Nashville
United States 4 (Castrillo og 19, Chandler 58, Dempsey pen 73, Wondolowski 86)
Guatemala 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 44,835. **Ref:** Perez (Mex)
United States: Guzan - Chandler, Gonzalez (Alvarado 46), Brooks (Ream 61), F Johnson (Garza 46), Yedlin, Diskerud (Morales 61), Bradley, Zusi (Zardes 46), Dempsey, Altidore (Wondolowski 68).
Guatemala: Motta - Morales, Lalin, Castrillo (Figueroa 74), D Lopez, Mejia (Contreras 46), Herrarte (Cincotta 84), De Leon (Marquez 69), Aparicio, Arreola (Pappa 46), M Lopez (Ruiz 46).

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP

Played in Canada

Group A
June 6: Canada 1 China 0; New Zealand 0 Holland 1.
June 11: China 1 Holland 0; Canada 0 New Zealand 0.
June 15: Holland 1 Canada 1; China 2 New Zealand 2.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – GROUP A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canada (Q)	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
China (Q)	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
Holland (Q)	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
New Zealand	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

Group B
June 7: Norway 4 Thailand 0; Germany 10 Ivory Coast 0.
June 11: Germany 1 Norway 1; Ivory Coast 2 Thailand 3.
June 15: Thailand 0 Germany 4; Ivory Coast 1 Norway 3.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – GROUP B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany (Q)	3	2	1	0	15	1	7
Norway (Q)	3	2	1	0	8	2	7
Thailand	3	1	0	2	3	10	3
Ivory Coast	3	0	0	3	3	16	0

Group C
June 8: Cameroon 6 Ecuador 0; Japan 1 Switzerland 0.
June 12: Switzerland 10 Ecuador 1; Japan 2 Cameroon 1.
June 16: Ecuador 0 Japan 1; Switzerland 1 Cameroon 2.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – GROUP C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Japan (Q)	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Cameroon (Q)	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Switz'land (Q)	3	1	0	2	11	4	3
Ecuador	3	0	0	3	1	17	0

Group D
June 8: Sweden 3 Nigeria 3; United States 3 Australia 1.
June 12: Australia 2 Nigeria 0; United States 0 Sweden 0.
June 16: Nigeria 0 United States 1; Australia 1 Sweden 1.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USA (Q)	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Australia (Q)	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Sweden (Q)	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Nigeria	3	0	1	2	3	6	1

Group E
June 9: Spain 1 Costa Rica 1; Brazil 2 South Korea 0.
June 13: Brazil 1 Spain 0; South Korea 2 Costa Rica 2.
June 17: Costa Rica 0 Brazil 1; South Korea 2 Spain 1.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil (Q)	3	3	0	0	4	0	9
Sth Korea (Q)	3	1	1	1	4	5	4
Costa Rica	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Spain	3	0	1	2	2	4	1

Group F
June 9: France 1 England 0; Colombia 1 Mexico 1.
June 13: France 0 Colombia 2; England 2 Mexico 1.
June 17: Mexico 0 France 5; England 2 Colombia 1.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France (Q)	3	2	0	1	6	2	6
England (Q)	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Colombia (Q)	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Mexico	3	0	1	2	2	8	1

● *The top 2 in each group and the 4 3rd-placed teams with the best record qualified for the1st knockout round*

1st knockout round (last 16)
June 20: Germany 4 Sweden 1; China 1 Cameroon 0.
June 21: Brazil 0 Australia 1; France 3 South Korea 0; Canada 1 Switzerland 0.
June 22: Norway 1 England 2; United States 2 Colombia 0.
June 23: Japan 2 Holland 1.

Quarter-finals
June 26: Germany 1 France 1 (aet, Germany 5-4 on pens); China 0 United States 1.
June 27: Australia 0 Japan 1; England 2 Canada 1.

Semi-finals
June 30: United States 2 Germany 0.
July 1: Japan 2 England 1.

3rd-place match
July 4: Germany 0 England 1 (aet).

Final
July 5 - Vancouver (BC Place)
United States 5 (Lloyd 3, 5, 16, Holiday 14, Heath 54)
Japan 2 (Ogimi 27, Johnston og 52)
HT: 4-1. **Att:** 53,341. **Ref:** Monzul (Ukr)

Club football

CONCACAF

CONCACAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group stage draw
Group A: Santos Laguna (Mex), Saprissa (CR), W Connection (T&T)
Group B: Herediano (CR), Isidro Metapan (ESv), Tigres (Mex)
Group C: Queretaro (Mex), San Francisco (Pan), Verdes (Blz)
Group D: Central (T&T), Comunicaciones (Gtm), Los Angeles Galaxy (USA)
Group E: America (Mex), Motagua (Hnd), Walter Ferretti (Nic)
Group F: Olimpia (Hnd), Seattle Sounders (USA), Vancouver Whitecaps (Can)
Group G: Municipal (Gtm), Real Salt Lake (USA), Santa Tecla (ESv)
Group H: Arabe Unido (Pan), DC United (USA), Montego Bay United (Jam)

Matches to be played Aug 4-Oct 22

● *Group winners will qualify for the quarter-finals*

CUBA

2015 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Camaguey[1] (C)	17	13	1	3	29	14	40
Cienfuegos	18	7	7	4	19	12	28
La Habana	18	6	8	4	20	18	26
Villa Clara	18	7	4	7	29	19	25
Santiago	18	6	6	6	17	14	24
Guantanamo	18	6	6	6	16	16	24
Ciego de Avila	18	6	5	7	28	23	23
Las Tunas	18	5	6	7	18	34	21
S'ti Spiritus (R)	18	4	4	10	17	29	16
I Juventud[1] (R)	17	4	3	10	12	26	15

[1] *The end-of-season Isla de la Juventud v Camaguey game was cancelled as it had no bearing on the final standings*

EL SALVADOR

2014-15 Clausura Final
May 24
Isidro Metapan 1 Santa Tecla 1
(aet, Santa Tecla 3-1 on pens)

FRENCH GUIANA

2014-15 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
CSC Cay'ne (C)	22	16	4	2	40	15	74
US Matoury[2]	22	13	5	4	39	21	65
Le Geldar	22	12	2	8	38	23	60
Kourou FC	22	9	4	9	26	25	53
SC Kourou[2]	22	8	5	9	34	35	50
Iracoubo	22	7	7	8	25	29	50
Remire[2]	22	8	4	10	34	36	49
Cosma	22	6	9	7	24	26	49
Macouria	22	7	5	10	27	32	48
Grand Santi[2]	22	7	5	10	25	33	47
Montjoly (R)	22	4	6	12	33	52	40
Sin'mary[2] (R)	22	4	2	16	14	43	35

[1] *4pts for a win, 2pts for a draw, 1pt for a defeat*
[2] *1pt deducted*

GUADELOUPE

2014-15 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Moulien (C)	26	18	4	4	50	16	84
La Gauloise	26	15	8	3	47	15	79
L'Etoile[2]	26	15	8	3	40	10	78
Siroco	26	11	11	4	33	16	70
Unite Ste-Rose	26	13	5	8	27	21	70
Arsenal	26	10	7	9	30	24	63
Baie-Mahault	26	10	3	13	33	37	59
Solidarite	26	8	8	10	29	35	58
Juventus	26	7	9	10	21	25	56
Phare Canal	26	7	6	13	21	39	53
Amical	26	7	5	14	20	37	52
Red Star[2] (R)	26	6	8	12	21	37	51
Gosier (R)	26	3	9	14	14	46	44
Racing (R)	26	4	5	17	15	43	43

[1] *4pts for a win, 2pts for a draw, 1pt for a defeat*
[2] *1pt deducted*

GUATEMALA

2014-15 Clausura Final
1st leg - May 20; 2nd leg - May 23
Municipal v Comunicaciones 0-2, 3-2 (agg 3-4)

HAITI

2015 Ouverture (Apertura) Final
1st leg - July 2; 2nd leg - July 5
America v Don Bosco 0-1, 0-1 (agg 0-2)

MARTINIQUE

2014-15 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts[1]
Golden Lion (C)	26	22	2	2	82	16	94
Franciscain	26	18	5	3	68	24	85
Colonial[2]	26	18	3	5	54	18	82
Aiglon	26	13	6	7	39	25	71
Golden Star	26	11	7	8	50	27	66
Riviere-Pilote	26	11	7	8	39	23	66
Case-Pilote	26	10	6	10	38	46	62
Essor-Pre'tain	26	11	3	12	46	33	62
Emulation	26	8	9	9	33	28	59
Samaritaine[3]	26	9	7	10	55	38	57
Marinoise	26	5	9	12	21	31	50
Robert	26	5	8	13	30	51	49
Tartane (R)	26	4	2	20	27	87	40
Belimois (R)	26	0	0	26	14	149	26

[1] *4pts for a win, 2pts for a draw, 1pt for a defeat*
[2] *1pt deducted*
[3] *3pts deducted*

NICARAGUA

2014-15 Clausura Final
1st leg - June 27; 2nd leg - July 4
Real Esteli v Diriangen 2-1, 0-0 (agg 2-1)

SURINAM

2014-15 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter M'poe (C)	18	12	4	2	40	12	40
Notch	18	11	6	1	40	18	39
WBC	18	11	1	6	46	28	34
Leo Victor	18	9	3	6	42	29	30
Transvaal	18	7	2	9	24	37	23
Botopasie	18	6	4	8	31	37	22
Excelsior	18	6	4	8	25	33	22
Takdier Boys	18	5	3	10	30	44	18
Boma Star (R)[1]	18	4	4	10	25	40	16
SNL (R)	18	2	3	13	18	43	9

[1] *Relegated after losing rel/prom play-off*

TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS

2015 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Academy (C)	10	9	0	1	31	8	27
Beaches	10	6	0	4	18	15	18
Cheshire Hall	10	4	2	4	35	27	14
SWA Sharks	10	3	2	5	28	24	11
Rozo	10	2	2	6	10	26	8
Teachers	10	2	2	6	19	41	8

Trailblazers withdrew after 1 game; result annulled

AFRICA

BURKINA FASO

2014-15 – FINAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RC Bobo (C)	30	18	6	6	44	17	60
Etoile Filante	30	15	12	3	45	18	57
Forces Armees	30	15	9	6	46	22	54
Sonabel	30	14	11	5	33	17	53
RC Kadiogo	30	13	9	8	30	22	48
US Ouagad'ou	30	12	12	6	26	15	48
KOZAF	30	10	10	10	21	23	40
ASFA Yen'ga	30	9	10	11	21	27	37
Majestic	30	8	10	12	22	30	34
ASF Bobo	30	7	11	12	9	21	32
Bouloum'kou	30	8	8	14	20	33	32
Santos	30	6	13	11	18	32	31
Bankuy Sports	30	7	10	13	15	30	31
Comoe	30	6	13	11	17	28	31
Bobo Sport (R)	30	5	12	13	15	29	27
Canon Sud (R)	30	5	8	17	11	29	23

BURUNDI

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vital'O (C)	30	23	3	4	66	13	72
LLB	30	18	5	7	47	18	59
Bujumbura C	30	15	8	7	39	25	53
Messager N[1]	29	14	8	7	43	23	50
Athletico O	30	12	11	7	28	20	47
Inter Star	30	12	8	10	34	30	44
Muzinga	30	10	10	10	32	30	40
Rusizi	30	11	7	12	25	25	40
Olympic Star	30	9	12	9	28	23	39
Flambeau	30	9	12	9	34	32	39
Messager B	30	8	9	13	25	28	33
Nyanza Utd[1]	29	7	10	12	21	34	31
Royal M'mvya	30	7	10	13	24	41	31
P Louis (R)	30	9	3	18	32	51	30
Volont'res (R)	30	7	8	15	25	41	29
Ac Tchite (R)	30	5	2	23	18	87	17

[1]*Nyanza United v Le Messager Ngozi not played*

DR CONGO

2014-15 – CHAMPIONSHIP GROUP[1] – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AS Vita (C)	9	6	3	0	16	4	21
TP Mazembe	9	6	2	1	19	6	20
Don Bosco	9	4	3	2	10	5	15
St Eloi Lupopo	9	3	4	2	8	7	13
Lu'bashi Sport	9	3	3	3	8	9	12
Shark XI	9	3	3	3	6	7	12
Sanga Balende	9	3	2	4	8	8	11
Gr'pe Bazano	9	3	2	4	10	11	11
Motema P'be	9	1	2	6	5	16	5
MK Etancheite	9	0	2	7	2	19	2

[1]*The championship group comprised the top 5 from each of the 2 regular-season groups*

ETHIOPIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St George (C)	26	17	6	3	38	14	57
Dedebit	26	13	5	8	43	25	44
Adama	26	10	12	4	32	24	42
Sidama Coffee	26	11	7	8	28	27	40
CBE	26	9	12	5	38	30	39
Eth'ian Coffee	26	10	6	10	30	28	36
Arba Minch	26	9	8	9	18	24	35
Defence Force	26	9	7	10	21	21	34
Welayta Dicha	26	9	6	11	20	24	33
Awassa	26	9	6	11	29	34	33
EEPCO	26	8	6	12	27	32	30
Dashen Beer	26	8	6	12	23	29	30
M Cement (R)	26	6	9	11	20	26	27
Woldya (R)	26	4	4	18	18	47	16

GAMBIA

2015 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gamtel (C)	22	12	8	2	22	9	44
Real Banjul	22	11	9	2	28	14	42
GPA	22	8	11	3	21	12	35
Brikama Utd	22	7	11	4	25	21	32
Armed Forces	22	8	7	7	20	18	31
Bombada	22	8	5	9	20	24	29
Hawks	22	7	7	8	17	19	28
Banjul Utd	22	7	6	9	20	23	27
Wallidan	22	4	10	8	13	20	22
Serrekunda	22	4	8	10	9	15	20
Interior (R)	22	4	7	11	12	19	19
Bakau Utd (R)	22	4	7	11	12	25	19

MAURITANIA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tevragh-Z (C)	26	18	6	2	52	14	60
SNIM	26	18	5	3	54	18	59
Ksar	26	16	8	2	54	13	56
Concorde	26	15	6	5	48	20	51
Nouadhibou	26	14	6	6	44	17	48
Tidjikja	26	11	6	9	36	32	39
Armee	26	8	9	9	35	34	33
Kedia	26	7	8	11	26	42	29
Assaba	26	7	6	13	17	34	27
Gueumeul	26	6	9	11	23	27	27
Zem Zem	26	6	8	12	18	33	26
Police	26	6	6	14	32	45	24
Moderne (R)	26	4	4	18	20	58	16
Selibaby (R)	26	1	3	22	13	85	6

RWANDA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
APR (C)	26	15	7	4	43	18	52
AS Kigali	26	14	7	5	35	17	49
Police	26	12	10	4	30	16	46
Sunrise	26	10	10	6	25	17	40
Rayon Sports[1]	26	10	11	5	36	25	38
Gicumbi	26	8	12	6	17	16	36
Espoir	26	9	7	10	14	20	34
Amagaju	26	8	8	10	27	27	32
Kiyovu Sports	26	8	8	10	26	37	32
Mukura	26	6	11	9	22	27	29
Marines	26	7	8	11	21	28	29
Musanze	26	7	7	12	14	19	28
Etincelles (R)	26	3	9	14	13	32	18
Isonga (R)	26	3	9	14	14	38	18

[1]*3pts deducted*

SOMALIA

2015 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heegan (C)	18	11	3	4	38	12	36
Banadir	18	10	5	3	31	11	35
Jeenyo Utd	18	10	4	4	39	19	34
Dekedda	18	10	1	7	27	18	31
Elman	18	7	8	3	25	18	29
Gaadiidka[1]	17	7	3	7	20	17	24
Sahafi	18	6	4	8	28	24	22
Horseed[2]	18	5	2	11	15	34	17
S'li Fruit[1] (R)[2]	17	5	2	10	16	37	17
Savana (R)	18	1	2	15	16	65	5

[1]*The Gaadiidka v Somali Fruit game was declared void and not included in the table because both teams fielded ineligible players*
[2]*Horseed beat Somali Fruit in a relegation play-off, staged because the teams finished level on points*

SWAZILAND

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
R Leopards (C)	22	16	5	1	52	16	53
Mbabane Sw	22	13	3	6	41	25	42
Yng Buffaloes	22	10	7	5	32	23	37
Green Mamba	22	10	6	6	38	27	36
Mbabane High	22	10	5	7	36	35	35
Manzini Sun's	22	8	7	7	16	14	31
Red Lions	22	7	7	8	32	40	28
Malanti Chiefs	22	8	3	11	33	33	27
Manzini Sea B	22	8	1	13	24	42	25
Manzini Wand	22	5	8	9	25	28	23
Moneni P (R)	22	5	7	10	22	32	22
RSSC Utd (R)	22	1	3	18	15	51	6

UGANDA

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vipers (C)	30	20	9	1	42	18	69
SC Villa	30	19	8	3	50	18	65
KCCA	30	16	6	8	42	21	54
URA[1]	30	15	11	4	48	30	53
BUL	30	11	10	9	27	26	43
Police	30	11	7	12	35	29	40
Bright Stars	30	9	11	10	24	25	38
Express	30	11	5	14	28	31	38
SC Vic Univ	30	9	11	10	20	25	38
Lweza	30	10	7	13	28	32	37
Simba	30	10	7	13	22	27	37
Sadolin Paints	30	9	10	11	23	32	37
Soana	30	9	7	14	32	41	34
Kira Yng[1] (R)	30	9	7	14	33	39	31
Rwensh'a (R)	30	6	4	20	28	55	22
Entebbe (R)	30	3	6	21	12	51	15

[1]*3pts deducted for failing to fulfil a fixture*

ASIA

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals draw

Al Hilal (Sau) v Lekhwiya (Qat)
Jeonbuk Motors (SKo) v Gamba Osaka (Jap)
Kashiwa Reysol (Jap) v Guangzhou Evergrande (Chn)
Naft Tehran (Irn) v Al Ahli (UAE)
1st legs - Aug 25/26; 2nd legs - Sep15/16

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals draw

Istiklol (Taj) v Pahang (Mly)
Johor Darul Ta'zim (Mly) v South China (HK)
Kuwait SC (Kuw) v Kitchee (HK)
Qadsia SC (Kuw) v Al Jaish (Syr)
1st legs - Aug 25/26; 2nd legs - Sep15/16

INDIA (I-League)

2015 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
M'n Bagan (C)	20	11	6	3	33	16	39
Bengaluru	20	10	7	3	35	19	37
R Wahingdoh	20	8	6	6	27	27	30
East Bengal	20	8	5	7	30	28	29
Pune	20	8	5	7	24	26	29
Mumbai	20	5	9	6	22	27	24
Salgaocar	20	7	3	10	25	27	24
Sporting Goa	20	5	8	7	22	27	23
Shill'g Lajong	20	6	5	9	34	29	23
Dempo (R)[1]	20	3	10	7	15	26	19
Bharat	20	4	6	10	13	28	18

[1]*Dempo relegated because Bharat are one of the new franchise teams, which have immunity from relegation for 3 seasons*

OMAN

2014-15 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Oruba (C)	26	15	4	7	33	23	49
Fanja	26	14	5	7	41	33	47
Sur	26	13	7	6	37	26	46
Al Nasr	26	11	8	7	45	30	41
Dhofar	26	9	11	6	41	32	38
Al Khabourah	26	10	7	9	34	31	37
Al Nahda	26	10	6	10	39	35	36
Al Musannah	26	8	9	9	40	36	33
Saham	26	9	5	12	36	35	32
Al Shabab	26	8	8	10	34	38	32
Al Suwaiq	26	8	7	11	29	41	31
Sohar[1]	26	6	13	7	25	30	31
Boushar (R)	26	4	9	13	23	47	21
Al Seeb (R)	26	3	9	14	22	42	18

[1]*Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off*

OCEANIA

FIJI

2015 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nadi (C)	14	11	2	1	30	11	35
Suva	14	7	4	3	23	12	25
Rewa	14	7	2	5	22	18	23
Lautoka	14	7	1	6	24	18	22
Ba	14	6	3	5	35	17	21
Labasa	14	5	4	5	14	17	19
Nadroga	14	4	1	9	13	29	13
Tailevu N'ri (R)	14	0	1	13	7	46	1

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions
(R) = relegated
(Q) = qualified for next stage

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CZECH REPUBLIC

GOALKEEPERS

1	Tomas **KOUBEK**	(22) 26.08.92	Hradec Kralove
16	Jiri **PAVLENKA**	(23) 14.04.92	Banik Ostrava
23	Michal **REICHL**	(22) 14.09.92	Sigma Olomouc

DEFENDERS

15	Jan **BARANEK**	(21) 26.06.93	Viktoria Plzen
5	Jakub **BRABEC**	(22) 06.08.92	Sparta Prague
21	Matej **HANOUSEK**	(22) 02.06.93	Dukla Prague
19	Matej **HYBS**	(22) 03.01.93	Vysocina Jihlava
20	Jakub **JUGAS**	(23) 05.05.92	Zbrojovka Brno
2	Pavel **KADERABEK**	(23) 25.04.92	Hoffenheim (Ger)
22	Tomas **KALAS**	(22) 15.05.93	Chelsea (Eng)
14	Ladislav **TAKACS**	(18) 15.07.96	Teplice

MIDFIELDERS

11	Martin **FRYDEK**	(23) 24.03.92	Slovan Liberec
7	David **HOUSKA**	(21) 29.06.93	Sigma Olomouc
4	Adam **JANOS**	(22) 20.07.92	Vysocina Jihlava
13	Ladislav **KREJCI**	(22) 05.07.92	Sparta Prague
18	Lukas **MASOPUST**	(22) 12.02.93	Baumit Jablonec
6	Ondrej **PETRAK**	(23) 11.03.92	Nuremberg (Ger)
12	Michal **TRAVNIK**	(21) 17.05.94	Slovacko
8	Jaromir **ZMRHAL**	(21) 02.08.93	Slavia Prague

FORWARDS

3	Vaclav **KADLEC**	(23) 20.05.92	Eintract Frankfurt (Ger)
9	Jan **KLIMENT**	(21) 01.09.93	Vysocina Jihlava
17	Tomas **PRIKRYL**	(22) 04.07.92	Dukla Prague
10	Jiri **SKALAK**	(23) 12.03.92	Mlada Boleslav

COACH

Jakub **DOVALIL**	(40) 08.02.74	

DENMARK

GOALKEEPERS

1	Jakob **BUSK**	(21) 12.09.93	Sandefjord
22	David **JENSEN**	(23) 25.03.92	Nordsjaelland
16	Frederik **RONNOW**	(22) 04.08.92	Horsens

DEFENDERS

12	Patrick **BANGGAARD**	(21) 04.04.94	Midtjylland
6	Andreas **CHRISTENSEN**	(19) 10.04.96	Chelsea (Eng)
13	Riza **DURMISI**	(21) 08.01.94	Brondby
5	Jonas **KNUDSEN**	(22) 16.09.92	Esbjerg
14	Christoffer **REMMER**	(22) 16.01.93	Copenhagen
2	Alexander **SCHOLZ**	(22) 24.10.92	Standard Liege (Blg)
3	Frederik **SORENSEN**	(23) 14.04.92	Verona (Ita)
4	Jannik **VESTERGAARD**	(22) 03.08.92	Werder Bremen (Ger)

MIDFIELDERS

8	Lasse Vigen **CHRISTENSEN**	(20) 15.08.94	Fulham (Eng)
18	Rasmus **FALK**	(23) 15.01.92	OB
10	Pierre **HOJBJERG**	(19) 05.08.95	Bayern Munich (Ger)
19	Jens **JONSSON**	(22) 10.01.93	AGF
17	Christian **NORGAARD**	(21) 10.03.94	Brondby
23	Pione **SISTO**	(20) 04.02.95	Midtjylland
15	Nicolaj **THOMSEN**	(22) 08.05.93	AaB

FORWARDS

11	Uffe **BECH**	(22) 13.01.93	Nordsjaelland
21	Emil **BERGGREEN**	(22) 10.05.93	Eintracht Braunschweig (Ger)
20	Nicolai **BROCK-MADSEN**	(22) 09.01.93	Randers
7	Viktor **FISCHER**	(21) 09.06.94	Ajax (Hol)
9	Yussuf **POULSEN**	(21) 15.06.94	RB Leipzig (Ger)

COACH

Jess **THORUP**	(45) 21.02.70	

ENGLAND

GOALKEEPERS

13	Marcus **BETTINELLI**	(23) 24.05.92	Fulham
12	Jonathan **BOND**	(22) 19.05.93	Watford
1	Jack **BUTLAND**	(22) 10.03.93	Stoke City

DEFENDERS

21	Calum **CHAMBERS**	(20) 20.01.95	Arsenal
3	Luke **GARBUTT**	(22) 21.05.93	Everton
6	Ben **GIBSON**	(22) 15.01.93	Middlesbrough
2	Carl **JENKINSON**	(23) 08.02.92	Arsenal
15	Michael **KEANE**	(22) 11.01.93	Burnley
20	Liam **MOORE**	(22) 31.01.93	Leicester City
5	John **STONES**	(21) 28.05.94	Everton
22	Matt **TARGETT**	(19) 18.09.95	Southampton

MIDFIELDERS

10	Tom **CARROLL**	(23) 28.05.92	Tottenham Hotspur
14	Nathaniel **CHALOBAH**	(20) 12.12.94	Chelsea
4	Jake **FORSTER-CASKEY**	(21) 25.04.94	Brighton & Hove Albion
19	Will **HUGHES**	(20) 17.04.95	Derby County
16	Jesse **LINGARD**	(22) 15.12.92	Manchester United
23	Ruben **LOFTUS-CHEEK**	(19) 23.01.96	Chelsea
7	Alex **PRITCHARD**	(22) 03.05.93	Tottenham Hotspur
11	Nathan **REDMOND**	(21) 06.03.94	Norwich City
8	James **WARD-PROWSE**	(20) 01.11.94	Southampton

FORWARDS

18	Benik **AFOBE**	(22) 12.02.93	Wolverhampton Wanderers
17	Danny **INGS**	(22) 23.07.92	Burnley
9	Harry **KANE**	(21) 28.07.93	Tottenham Hotspur

COACH

Gareth **SOUTHGATE**	(44) 03.09.70	

GERMANY

GOALKEEPERS

23	Timo **HORN**	(22) 12.05.93	Cologne
1	Bernd **LENO**	(23) 04.03.92	Bayer Leverkusen
12	Marc-Andre **TER STEGEN**	(23) 30.04.92	Barcelona (Spa)

DEFENDERS

4	Matthias **GINTER**	(21) 19.01.94	Borussia Dortmund
3	Christian **GUNTER**	(22) 28.02.93	Freiburg
22	Dominique **HEINTZ**	(21) 15.08.93	Kaiserslautern
2	Julian **KORB**	(23) 21.03.92	Borussia Monchengladbach
16	Robin **KNOCHE**	(23) 22.05.92	Wolfsburg
5	Nico **SCHULZ**	(22) 01.04.93	Hertha Berlin

MIDFIELDERS

18	Maximilian **ARNOLD**	(21) 27.05.94	Wolfsburg
7	Leonardo **BITTENCOURT**	(21) 19.12.93	Hanover
11	Emre **CAN**	(21) 12.01.94	Liverpool (Eng)
14	Kerem **DEMIRBAY**	(21) 03.07.93	Hamburg
6	Johannes **GEIS**	(21) 17.08.93	Mainz
17	Joshua **KIMMICH**	(20) 08.02.95	RB Leipzig
21	Felix **KLAUS**	(22) 13.09.92	Freiburg
10	Moritz **LEITNER**	(22) 08.12.92	Borussia Dortmund
8	Yunus **MALLI**	(23) 24.02.92	Mainz
20	Max **MEYER**	(19) 18.09.95	Schalke
19	Amin **YOUNES**	(21) 06.08.93	Borussia Monchengladbach

FORWARDS

15	Serge **GNABRY**	(19) 14.07.95	Arsenal (Eng)
13	Philipp **HOFMANN**	(22) 30.03.93	Kaiserslautern
9	Kevin **VOLLAND**	(22) 30.07.92	Hoffenheim

COACH

Horst **HRUBESCH**	(64) 17.04.51	

ITALY

In control...midfielder Benassi in action against Portugal

GOALKEEPERS

1	Francesco **BARDI**	(23) 18.01.92	Internazionale
20	Nicola **LEALI**	(22) 17.02.93	Juventus
14	Marco **SPORTIELLO**	(23) 10.05.92	Atalanta

DEFENDERS

12	Federico **BARBA**	(21) 01.09.93	Empoli
13	Matteo **BIANCHETTI**	(22) 17.03.93	Verona
3	Cristiano **BIRAGHI**	(22) 01.09.92	Internazionale
17	Armando **IZZO**	(23) 02.03.92	Genoa
6	Alessio **ROMAGNOLI**	(20) 12.01.95	Roma
5	Daniele **RUGANI**	(20) 29.07.94	Empoli
2	Stefano **SABELLI**	(22) 13.01.93	Bari
22	Davide **ZAPPACOSTA**	(22) 23.06.92	Atalanta

MIDFIELDERS

16	Daniele **BASELLI**	(23) 12.03.92	Atalanta
18	Cristian **BATTOCCHIO**	(23) 10.02.92	Virtus Entella
15	Marco **BENASSI**	(20) 08.09.94	Torino
21	Danilo **CATALDI**	(20) 06.08.94	Lazio
4	Lorenzo **CRISETIG**	(22) 20.01.93	Internazionale
8	Stefano **STURARO**	(22) 09.03.93	Juventus
7	Federico **VIVIANI**	(23) 24.03.92	Roma

FORWARDS

9	Andrea **BELOTTI**	(21) 20.12.93	Palermo
10	Domenico **BERARDI**	(20) 01.08.94	Juventus
11	Federico **BERNARDESCHI**	(21) 16.02.94	Fiorentina
19	Marcello **TROTTA**	(22) 29.09.92	Avellino
23	Simone **VERDI**	(22) 12.07.92	Empoli

COACH

Luigi **DI BIAGIO**	(44) 03.06.71	

PORTUGAL

GOALKEEPERS

12	Daniel **FERNANDES**	(22) 13.11.92	Paderborn (Ger)
1	Jose **SA**	(22) 17.01.93	Maritimo
22	Bruno **VARELA**	(20) 04.11.94	Benfica

DEFENDERS

13	Joao **CANCELO**	(21) 27.05.94	Valencia (Spa)
2	Ricardo **ESGAIO**	(22) 16.05.93	Academica
14	Tobias **FIGUEIREDO**	(21) 02.02.94	Sporting Lisbon
5	Raphael **GUERREIRO**	(21) 22.12.93	Lorient (Fra)
3	Tiago **ILORI**	(22) 26.02.93	Liverpool (Eng)
4	Paulo **OLIVEIRA**	(23) 08.01.92	Sporting Lisbon
15	Frederico **VENANCIO**	(22) 04.02.93	Vitoria Setubal

MIDFIELDERS

6	William **CARVALHO**	(23) 07.04.92	Sporting Lisbon
23	Joao **MARIO**	(22) 19.01.93	Sporting Lisbon
16	Ruben **NEVES**	(18) 13.03.97	Porto
8	Sergio **OLIVEIRA**	(23) 02.06.92	Porto
10	Bernardo **SILVA**	(20) 10.08.94	Monaco (Fra)
7	Rafa **SILVA**	(22) 17.05.93	Braga
20	**TOZE**	(22) 14.01.93	Estoril

FORWARDS

18	Ivan **CAVALEIRO**	(21) 18.10.93	Benfica
19	Ricardo **HORTA**	(20) 15.09.94	Malaga (Spa)
17	Carlos **MANE**	(21) 11.03.94	Sporting Lisbon
11	Iuri **MEDEIROS**	(20) 10.07.94	Arouca
9	Goncalo **PACIENCIA**	(20) 01.08.94	Porto
21	Ricardo **PEREIRA**	(21) 06.10.93	Porto

COACH

Rui **JORGE**	(42) 27.03.73	

SERBIA

GOALKEEPERS

1	Marko **DMITROVIC**	(23) 24.01.92	Charlton Athletic (Eng)
12	Nikola **PERIC**	(23) 04.02.92	Jagodina
23	Nemanja **STEVANOVIC**	(23) 05.05.92	Cukaricki

DEFENDERS

20	Lazar **CIRKOVIC**	(22) 22.08.92	Partizan
5	Uros **COSIC**	(22) 24.10.92	Pescara (Ita)
17	Aleksandar **FILIPOVIC**	(20) 20.12.94	Jagodina
6	Aleksandar **PANTIC**	(23) 11.04.92	Cordoba (Spa)
3	Marko **PETKOVIC**	(22) 03.09.92	Red Star
13	Nemanja **PETROVIC**	(23) 17.04.92	Partizan
15	Uros **SPAJIC**	(22) 13.02.93	Toulouse (Fra)
22	Filip **STOJKOVIC**	(23) 22.01.92	Cukaricki

MIDFIELDERS

14	Darko **BRASANAC**	(23) 12.02.92	Partizan
7	Goran **CAUSIC**	(23) 05.05.92	Eskisehirspor (Tur)
10	Filip **DURICIC**	(23) 30.01.92	Benfica (Por)
8	Mirko **IVANIC**	(21) 13.09.93	Vojvodina
18	Milos **JOJIC**	(23) 19.03.92	Borussia Dortmund (Ger)
2	Aleksandar **KOVACEVIC**	(23) 09.01.92	Red Star
4	Srdan **MIJAILOVID**	(21) 10.11.93	Kayserispor (Tur)

FORWARDS

11	Aleksandar **CAVRIC**	(20) 18.06.94	Genk (Blg)
16	Luka **MILUNOVIC**	(22) 21.12.92	Platanias (Gre)
9	Aleksandar **PESIC**	(23) 21.05.92	Toulouse (Fra)
21	Slavoljub **SRNIC**	(23) 12.01.92	Cukaricki
19	Nikola **STOJILJKOVIC**	(22) 17.08.92	Cukaricki

COACH

Mladen **DODIC**	(45) 17.10.69	

SWEDEN

GOALKEEPERS

1	Patrik **CARLGREN**	(23) 08.01.92	AIK
23	Andreas **LINDE**	(21) 24.07.93	Molde (Nor)
12	Jacob **RINNE**	(21) 20.06.93	Orebro

DEFENDERS

5	Ludwig **AUGUSTINSSON**	(21) 21.04.94	Copenhagen (Den)
17	Joseph **BAFFO**	(22) 07.11.92	Halmstad
4	Filip **HELANDER**	(22) 22.04.93	Malmo
18	Sebastian **HOLMEN**	(23) 29.04.92	Elfsborg
21	Pa **KONATE**	(21) 25.04.94	Malmo
2	Victor **LINDELOF**	(20) 17.07.94	Benfica (Por)
3	Alexander **MILOSEVIC**	(23) 30.01.92	Besiktas (Tur)

MIDFIELDERS

22	Simon **GUSTAFSON**	(20) 11.01.95	Hacken
7	Oscar **HILJEMARK**	(22) 28.06.92	PSV (Hol)
8	Abdul **KHALILI**	(23) 07.06.92	Mersin IY (Tur)
19	Sam **LARSSON**	(22) 10.04.93	Heerenveen (Hol)
6	Oscar **LEWICKI**	(22) 14.07.92	Malmo
15	Kristoffer **OLSSON**	(19) 30.06.95	Midtjylland (Den)
20	Robin **QUAISON**	(21) 09.10.93	Palermo (Ita)
16	Simon **TIBBLING**	(20) 07.09.94	Groningen (Hol)
13	Arber **ZENELI**	(20) 25.02.95	Elfsborg

FORWARDS

10	John **GUIDETTI**	(23) 15.04.92	Manchester City (Eng)
9	Branimir **HRGOTA**	(22) 12.01.93	Borussia M'gladbach (Ger)
14	Mikael **ISHAK**	(22) 31.03.93	Randers (Den)
11	Isaac Kiese **THELIN**	(22) 24.06.92	Bordeaux (Fra)

COACH

Hakan **ERICSON**	(55) 29.05.60	

(ages as of 17.06.15)

COPA AMERICA

ARGENTINA

Double...Aguero scored twice in the group stage

GOALKEEPERS			
23	Mariano **ANDUJAR***	(31) 30.07.83	Napoli (Ita)
12	Nahuel **GUZMAN**	(29) 10.02.86	Tigres (Mex)
23	Agustin **MARCHESIN***	(27) 16.03.88	Santos Laguna (Mex)
1	Sergio **ROMERO**	(28) 22.02.87	Sampdoria (Ita)
DEFENDERS			
13	Milton **CASCO**	(27) 11.04.88	Newell's Old Boys
15	Martin **DEMICHELIS**	(34) 20.12.80	Manchester City (Eng)
2	Ezequiel **GARAY**	(28) 10.10.86	Zenit (Rus)
17	Nicolas **OTAMENDI**	(27) 12.02.88	Valencia (Spa)
16	Marcos **ROJO**	(25) 20.03.90	Manchester United (Eng)
3	Facundo **RONCAGLIA**	(28) 10.02.87	Genoa (Ita)
4	Pablo **ZABALETA**	(30) 16.01.85	Manchester City (Eng)
MIDFIELDERS			
19	Ever **BANEGA**	(26) 29.06.88	Sevilla (Spa)
6	Lucas **BIGLIA**	(29) 30.01.86	Lazio (Ita)
7	Angel **DI MARIA**	(27) 14.02.88	Manchester United (Eng)
5	Fernando **GAGO**	(29) 10.04.86	Boca Juniors
20	Erik **LAMELA**	(23) 04.03.92	Tottenham Hotspur (Eng)
14	Javier **MASCHERANO**	(31) 08.06.84	Barcelona (Spa)
21	Javier **PASTORE**	(25) 20.06.89	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
8	Roberto **PEREYRA**	(24) 07.01.91	Juventus (Ita)
FORWARDS			
11	Sergio **AGUERO**	(27) 02.06.88	Manchester City (Eng)
9	Gonzalo **HIGUAIN**	(27) 10.12.87	Napoli (Ita)
22	Ezequiel **LAVEZZI**	(30) 03.05.85	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
10	Lionel **MESSI**	(27) 24.06.87	Barcelona (Spa)
18	Carlos **TEVEZ**	(31) 07.02.84	Juventus (Ita)
COACH			
Gerardo **MARTINO**		(52) 20.11.62	

** Marchesin replaced Andujar during tournament due to injury*

BOLIVIA

GOALKEEPERS			
12	Jose **PENARRIETA**	(26) 18.11.88	Petrolero Yacuiba
1	Romel **QUINONEZ**	(22) 25.06.92	Bolivar
23	Hugo **SUAREZ**	(33) 07.02.82	Blooming
DEFENDERS			
17	Marvin **BEJARANO**	(27) 06.03.88	Oriente Petrolero
21	Cristian **COIMBRA**	(25) 11.09.89	Blooming
5	Ronald **EGUINO**	(27) 20.02.88	Bolivar
2	Miguel **HURTADO**	(29) 04.07.85	Blooming
4	Leonel **MORALES**	(26) 02.09.88	Blooming
16	Ronald **RALDES**	(34) 20.04.81	Oriente Petrolero
14	Edemir **RODRIGUEZ**	(30) 21.10.84	Bolivar
22	Edward **ZENTENO**	(30) 05.12.84	Jorge Wilstermann
MIDFIELDERS			
6	Danny **BEJARANO**	(21) 03.01.94	Oriente Petrolero
20	Jhasmani **CAMPOS**	(27) 10.05.88	Bolivar
3	Alejandro **CHUMACERO**	(24) 22.04.91	The Strongest
15	Sebastian **GAMARRA**	(18) 15.01.97	Milan (Ita)
11	Damian **LIZIO**	(25) 30.06.89	O'Higgins (Chl)
13	Damir **MIRANDA**	(29) 06.10.85	Bolivar
8	Martin **SMEDBERG-DALENCE**	(31) 10.05.84	IFK Gothenburg (Swe)
19	Walter **VEIZAGA**	(29) 22.04.86	The Strongest
FORWARDS			
10	Pablo **ESCOBAR**	(36) 23.02.79	The Strongest
9	Marcelo **MORENO**	(27) 18.06.87	Changchun Yatai (Chn)
18	Ricardo **PEDRIEL**	(27) 01.09.87	Mersin IY (Tur)
7	Alcides **PENA**	(26) 14.01.89	Oriente Petrolero
COACH			
Mauricio **SORIA**		(49) 01.06.66	

COLOMBIA

GOALKEEPERS			
23	Cristian **BONILLA**	(22) 02.06.93	La Equidad
1	David **OSPINA**	(26) 31.08.88	Arsenal (Eng)
12	Camilo **VARGAS**	(25) 01.09.89	Atletico Nacional
DEFENDERS			
13	Darwin **ANDRADE**	(24) 11.02.91	Standard Liege (Blg)
4	Santiago **ARIAS**	(23) 13.01.92	PSV (Hol)
7	Pablo **ARMERO**	(28) 02.11.86	Flamengo (Bra)
3	Pedro **FRANCO**	(24) 23.04.91	Besiktas (Tur)
22	Jeison **MURILLO**	(23) 27.05.92	Granada (Spa)
14	Carlos **VALDES**	(30) 22.05.85	Nacional (Uru)
2	Cristian **ZAPATA**	(28) 30.09.86	Milan (Ita)
18	Camilo **ZUNIGA**	(29) 14.12.85	Napoli (Ita)
MIDFIELDERS			
8	Edwin **CARDONA**	(22) 08.12.92	Monterrey (Mex)
11	Juan **CUADRADO**	(27) 26.05.88	Chelsea (Eng)
15	Alexander **MEJIA**	(26) 07.09.88	Monterrey (Mex)
10	James **RODRIGUEZ**	(23) 12.07.91	Real Madrid (Spa)
6	Carlos **SANCHEZ**	(29) 06.02.86	Aston Villa (Eng)
5	Edwin **VALENCIA**	(30) 29.03.85	Santos (Bra)
FORWARDS			
17	Carlos **BACCA**	(28) 08.09.86	Sevilla (Spa)
9	Radamel **FALCAO**	(29) 10.02.86	Monaco (Fra)
19	Teofilo **GUTIERREZ**	(30) 28.05.85	River Plate (Arg)
16	Victor **IBARBO**	(25) 19.05.90	Roma (Ita)
21	Jackson **MARTINEZ**	(28) 03.10.86	Porto (Por)
20	Luis **MURIEL**	(24) 18.04.91	Sampdoria (Ita)
COACH			
Jose **PEKERMAN** (Arg)		(65) 03.09.49	

ECUADOR

Strike...Valencia got Ecuador's winner against Mexico

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Librado **AZCONA**	(31) 18.01.84	Independiente del Valle
23	Alexander **DOMINGUEZ**	(28) 05.06.87	LDU Quito
12	Esteban **DREER**	(33) 11.11.81	Emelec
DEFENDERS			
21	Gabriel **ACHILIER**	(30) 23.03.85	Emelec
10	Walter **AYOVI**	(35) 11.08.79	Pachuca (Mex)
18	Oscar **BAGUI**	(32) 10.12.82	Emelec
3	Frickson **ERAZO**	(27) 05.05.88	Gremio (Bra)
2	Arturo **MINA**	(24) 08.10.90	Independiente del Valle
20	John **NARVAEZ**	(24) 12.06.91	Emelec
4	Juan Carlos **PAREDES**	(27) 08.07.87	Watford (Eng)
16	Mario **PINEIDA**	(22) 06.07.92	Independiente del Valle
MIDFIELDERS			
11	Juan **CAZARES**	(23) 03.04.92	Banfield (Arg)
5	Renato **IBARRA**	(23) 20.01.91	Vitesse (Hol)
22	Jonathan **GONZALEZ**	(20) 07.03.95	Uni de Guadalajara (Mex)
19	Pedro **LARREA**	(29) 21.05.86	LDU Loja
14	Osbaldo **LASTRA**	(31) 10.08.83	Emelec
7	Jefferson **MONTERO**	(25) 01.09.89	Swansea City (Eng)
6	Christian **NOBOA**	(30) 09.04.85	PAOK (Gre)
15	Pedro **QUINONEZ**	(29) 04.03.86	Emelec
FORWARDS			
17	Daniel **ANGULO**	(28) 16.11.86	Independiente del Valle
8	Miller **BOLANOS**	(25) 01.06.90	Emelec
9	Fidel **MARTINEZ**	(25) 15.02.90	Uni de Guadalajara (Mex)
13	Enner **VALENCIA**	(25) 04.11.89	West Ham United (Eng)
COACH			
Gustavo **QUINTEROS** (Bol)		(50) 15.02.65	

PARAGUAY

Through...Samudio helped his side into the knockout stage

GOALKEEPERS			
23	Alfredo **AGUILAR**	(26) 18.07.88	Guarani
12	Antony **SILVA**	(31) 27.02.84	Independiente Medellin (Col)
1	Justo **VILLAR**	(37) 30.06.77	Colo Colo (Chl)
DEFENDERS			
4	Pablo **AGUILAR**	(28) 02.04.87	Club America (Mex)
19	Fabian **BALBUENA**	(23) 23.08.91	Libertad
3	Marcos **CACERES**	(29) 05.05.86	Newell's Old Boys (Arg)
14	Paulo **DA SILVA**	(35) 01.02.80	Toluca (Mex)
2	Ivan **PIRIS**	(26) 10.03.89	Udinese (Ita)
6	Miguel **SAMUDIO**	(28) 24.08.86	Club America (Mex)
5	Bruno **VALDEZ**	(22) 06.10.92	Cerro Porteno
MIDFIELDERS			
22	Eduardo **ARANDA**	(30) 28.01.85	Olimpia
15	Victor **CACERES**	(30) 25.03.85	Flamengo (Bra)
17	Osvaldo **MARTINEZ**	(29) 08.04.86	Club America (Mex)
16	Osmar **MOLINAS**	(28) 03.05.87	Libertad
20	Nestor **ORTIGOZA**	(30) 07.12.84	San Lorenzo (Arg)
13	Richard **ORTIZ**	(25) 22.05.90	Toluca (Mex)
21	Oscar **ROMERO**	(22) 04.07.92	Racing (Arg)
FORWARDS			
8	Lucas **BARRIOS**	(30) 13.11.84	Montpellier (Fra)
11	Edgar **BENITEZ**	(27) 08.11.87	Toluca (Mex)
7	Raul **BOBADILLA**	(27) 18.06.87	Augsburg (Ger)
10	Derlis **GONZALEZ**	(21) 23.03.94	Basle (Swi)
18	Nelson **HAEDO VALDEZ**	(31) 28.11.83	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
9	Roque **SANTA CRUZ**	(33) 16.08.81	Cruz Azul (Mex)
COACH			
Ramon **DIAZ** (Arg)		(55) 29.08.59	

PERU

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Pedro **GALLESE**	(25) 23.02.90	Juan Aurich
23	Salomon **LIBMAN**	(31) 25.02.84	Universidad Cesar Vallejo
12	Diego **PENNY**	(31) 22.04.84	Sporting Cristal
DEFENDERS			
17	Luis **ADVINCULA**	(25) 02.03.90	Vitoria Setubal (Por)
2	Jair **CESPEDES**	(31) 22.05.84	Juan Aurich
15	Christian **RAMOS**	(26) 04.11.88	Juan Aurich
4	Pedro **REQUENA**	(24) 24.01.91	Universidad Cesar Vallejo
3	Hansell **RIOJAS**	(23) 15.10.91	Universidad Cesar Vallejo
19	Yoshimar **YOTUN**	(25) 07.04.90	Malmo (Swe)
5	Carlos **ZAMBRANO**	(25) 10.07.89	Eintracht Frankfurt (Ger)
MIDFIELDERS			
22	Carlos **ASCUES**	(23) 06.06.92	Melgar
21	Josepmir **BALLON**	(27) 21.03.88	Sporting Cristal
8	Christian **CUEVA**	(23) 23.11.91	Alianza Lima
7	Paolo **HURTADO**	(24) 27.07.90	Pacos Ferreira (Por)
16	Carlos **LOBATON**	(35) 06.02.80	Sporting Cristal
13	Edwin **RETAMOSO**	(33) 23.02.82	Real Garcilaso
20	Joel **SANCHEZ**	(26) 11.06.89	Universidad San Martin
6	Juan Manuel **VARGAS**	(31) 05.10.83	Fiorentina (Ita)
FORWARDS			
18	Andre **CARRILLO**	(24) 14.06.91	Sporting Lisbon (Por)
10	Jefferson **FARFAN**	(30) 26.10.84	Schalke (Ger)
9	Paolo **GUERRERO**	(31) 01.01.84	Corinthians (Bra)
14	Claudio **PIZARRO**	(36) 03.10.78	Bayern Munich (Ger)
11	Yordy **REYNA**	(21) 17.09.93	RB Leipzig (Ger)
COACH			
Ricardo **GARECA** (Arg)		(57) 10.02.58	

BRAZIL

Battle...Elias gets involved against Peru in the group stage

GOALKEEPERS			
23	Marcelo **GROHE**	(28) 13.01.87	Gremio
1	**JEFFERSON**	(32) 02.01.83	Botafogo
12	**NETO**	(25) 19.07.89	Fiorentina (Ita)
DEFENDERS			
2	Dani **ALVES**	(32) 06.05.83	Barcelona (Spa)
16	**FABINHO**	(21) 23.10.93	Monaco (Fra)
15	**GEFERSON**	(21) 13.05.94	Internacional
6	Filipe **LUIS**	(29) 09.08.85	Chelsea (Eng)
4	David **LUIZ**	(28) 22.04.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
13	**MARQUINHOS**	(21) 14.05.94	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
3	**MIRANDA**	(30) 07.09.84	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
14	Thiago **SILVA**	(30) 22.09.84	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
MIDFIELDERS			
22	**CASEMIRO**	(23) 23.02.92	Real Madrid (Spa)
7	Douglas **COSTA**	(24) 14.09.90	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
21	Philippe **COUTINHO**	(23) 12.06.92	Liverpool (Eng)
8	**ELIAS**	(30) 16.05.85	Corinthians
5	**FERNANDINHO**	(30) 04.05.85	Manchester City (Eng)
11	Roberto **FIRMINO**	(23) 02.10.91	Hoffenheim (Ger)
17	**FRED**	(22) 05.03.93	Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
18	Everton **RIBEIRO**	(26) 10.04.89	Al Ahli (UAE)
19	**WILLIAN**	(26) 09.08.88	Chelsea (Eng)
FORWARDS			
10	**NEYMAR**	(23) 05.02.92	Barcelona (Spa)
20	**ROBINHO**	(31) 25.01.84	Santos
9	Diego **TARDELLI**	(30) 10.05.85	Shandong Luneng Taishan (Chn)
COACH			
DUNGA		(51) 31.10.63	

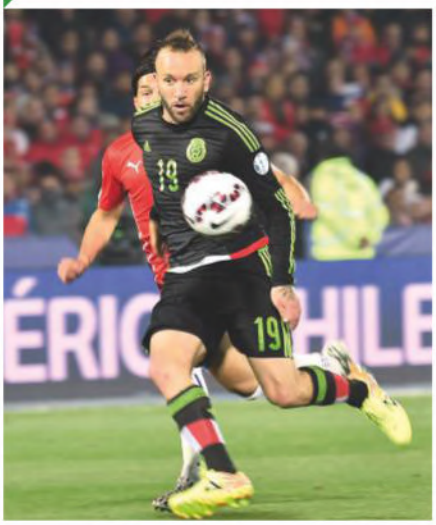
CHILE

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Claudio **BRAVO**	(32) 13.04.83	Barcelona (Spa)
12	Paulo **GARCES**	(30) 02.08.84	Colo Colo
23	Johnny **HERRERA**	(34) 09.05.81	Universidad de Chile
DEFENDERS			
3	Miiko **ALBORNOZ**	(24) 30.11.90	Hanover (Ger)
4	Mauricio **ISLA**	(27) 12.06.88	Juventus (Ita)
18	Gonzalo **JARA**	(29) 29.08.85	Mainz (Ger)
17	Gary **MEDEL**	(27) 03.08.87	Internazionale (Ita)
2	Eugenio **MENA**	(26) 18.07.88	Cruzeiro (Bra)
13	Jose **ROJAS**	(32) 03.06.83	Universidad de Chile
MIDFIELDERS			
20	Charles **ARANGUIZ**	(26) 17.04.89	Internacional (Bra)
15	Jean **BEAUSEJOUR**	(31) 03.06.84	Colo Colo
21	Marcelo **DIAZ**	(28) 30.12.86	Hamburg (Ger)
14	Matias **FERNANDEZ**	(29) 15.05.86	Fiorentina (Ita)
6	Jose Pedro **FUENZALIDA**	(30) 22.02.85	Boca Juniors (Arg)
19	Felipe **GUTIERREZ**	(24) 08.10.90	Twente (Hol)
16	David **PIZARRO**	(35) 11.09.79	Fiorentina (Ita)
5	Francisco **SILVA**	(29) 11.02.86	Club Brugge (Blg)
10	Jorge **VALDIVIA**	(31) 19.10.83	Palmeiras (Bra)
8	Arturo **VIDAL**	(28) 22.05.87	Juventus (Ita)
FORWARDS			
22	Angelo **HENRIQUEZ**	(21) 13.04.94	Manchester United (Eng)
9	Mauricio **PINILLA**	(31) 04.02.84	Atalanta (Ita)
7	Alexis **SANCHEZ**	(26) 19.12.88	Arsenal (Eng)
11	Eduardo **VARGAS**	(25) 20.11.89	Napoli (Ita)
COACH			
Jorge **SAMPAOLI** (Arg)		(55) 13.03.60	

JAMAICA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Duwayne **KERR**	(28) 16.02.87	Sarpsborg (Nor)
12	Dwayne **MILLER**	(27) 14.07.87	Syrianska (Swe)
23	Ryan **THOMPSON**	(30) 07.01.85	Pittsburgh Riverhounds (USA)
DEFENDERS			
2	Daniel **GORDON**	(30) 16.01.85	Karlsruher (Ger)
8	Hughan **GRAY**	(28) 25.03.87	Waterhouse
3	Michael **HECTOR**	(22) 19.07.92	Reading (Eng)
20	Kemar **LAWRENCE**	(22) 17.09.92	New York Red Bulls (USA)
19	Adrian **MARIAPPA**	(28) 03.10.86	Crystal Palace (Eng)
4	Wes **MORGAN**	(31) 21.01.84	Leicester City (Eng)
21	Jermaine **TAYLOR**	(30) 14.01.85	Houston Dynamo (USA)
MIDFIELDERS			
17	Rodolph **AUSTIN**	(30) 01.06.85	(unattached)
16	Joel **GRANT**	(27) 26.08.87	Yeovil Town (Eng)
5	Lance **LAING**	(27) 28.02.88	Edmonton (USA)
10	Jobi **McANUFF**	(33) 03.11.81	Leyton Orient (Eng)
22	Garath **McCLEARY**	(28) 15.05.87	Reading (Eng)
15	Je-Vaughn **WATSON**	(31) 22.10.83	Dallas (USA)
FORWARDS			
9	Giles **BARNES**	(26) 05.08.88	Houston Dynamo (USA)
6	Deshorn **BROWN**	(24) 22.12.90	Valerenga (Nor)
18	Simon **DAWKINS**	(27) 01.12.87	Derby County (Eng)
11	Darren **MATTOCKS**	(24) 02.09.90	Vancouver Whitecaps (USA)
14	Allan **OTTEY**	(22) 18.12.92	Montego Bay United
7	Romeo **PARKES**	(24) 20.11.90	Isidro Metapan (ElS)
13	Dino **WILLIAMS**	(25) 31.03.90	Montego Bay United
COACH			
Winfried **SCHAFER** (Ger)		(65) 10.01.50	

MEXICO


Out...Vuoso's goals couldn't prevent Mexico's early exit

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Jesus **CORONA**	(34) 26.01.81	Cruz Azul
23	Meliton **HERNANDEZ**	(32) 15.10.82	Veracruz
12	Alfredo **TALAVERA**	(32) 18.09.82	Toluca
DEFENDERS			
16	Adrian **ALDRETE**	(27) 14.06.88	Santos Laguna
3	Hugo **AYALA**	(28) 31.03.87	Tigres
21	George **CORRAL**	(24) 18.07.90	Queretaro
2	Julio **DOMINGUEZ**	(27) 08.11.87	Cruz Azul
15	Gerardo **FLORES**	(29) 05.02.86	Cruz Azul
4	Rafael **MARQUEZ**	(36) 13.02.79	Verona (Ita)
13	Carlos **SALCEDO**	(21) 29.09.93	Guadalajara
14	Juan Carlos **VALENZUELA**	(31) 15.05.84	Atlas
22	Efrain **VELARDE**	(29) 15.04.86	Monterrey
MIDFIELDERS			
11	Javier **AQUINO**	(25) 11.02.90	Rayo Vallecano (Spa)
8	Marco **FABIAN**	(25) 21.07.89	Guadalajara
6	Javier **GUEMEZ**	(23) 17.10.91	Tijuana
5	Juan Carlos **MEDINA**	(31) 22.08.83	Atlas
10	Luis **MONTES**	(29) 15.05.86	Leon
17	Mario **OSUNA**	(26) 20.08.88	Queretaro
FORWARDS			
7	Jesus Manuel **CORONA**	(22) 06.01.93	Twente (Hol)
18	Enrique **ESQUEDA**	(27) 19.04.88	Tigres
20	Eduardo **HERRERA**	(26) 25.07.88	Pumas
9	Raul **JIMENEZ**	(24) 05.05.91	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
19	Vicente Matias **VUOSO**	(33) 03.11.81	Chiapas
COACH			
Miguel **HERRERA**		(47) 18.03.68	

URUGUAY

Winner...Cristian Rodriguez's goal beat Jamaica

GOALKEEPERS			
12	Rodrigo **MUNOZ**	(33) 22.01.82	Libertad (Par)
1	Fernando **MUSLERA**	(29) 16.06.86	Galatasaray (Tur)
23	Martin **SILVA**	(32) 25.03.83	Vasco da Gama (Bra)
DEFENDERS			
19	Sebastian **COATES**	(24) 07.10.90	Liverpool (Eng)
18	Mathias **CORUJO**	(29) 08.05.86	Universidad de Chile (Chl)
4	Jorge **FUCILE**	(30) 19.11.84	Nacional
2	Jose **GIMENEZ**	(20) 20.01.95	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
3	Diego **GODIN**	(29) 16.02.86	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
6	Alvaro **PEREIRA**	(29) 28.11.85	Estudiantes (Arg)
16	Maximiliano **PEREIRA**	(31) 08.06.84	Benfica (Por)
13	Gaston **SILVA**	(21) 05.03.94	Torino (Ita)
MIDFIELDERS			
17	Egidio **AREVALO**	(33) 01.01.82	Tigres (Mex)
10	Giorgian **DE ARRASCAETA**	(21) 01.05.94	Cruzeiro (Bra)
20	Alvaro **GONZALEZ**	(30) 29.10.84	Torino (Ita)
14	Nicolas **LODEIRO**	(26) 21.03.89	Boca Juniors (Arg)
15	Guzman **PEREIRA**	(24) 16.05.91	Universidad de Chile (Chl)
7	Cristian **RODRIGUEZ**	(29) 30.09.85	Atletico Madrid (Spa)
5	Carlos **SANCHEZ**	(30) 02.12.84	River Plate (Arg)
FORWARDS			
21	Edinson **CAVANI**	(28) 14.02.87	Paris Saint-Germain (Fra)
8	Abel **HERNANDEZ**	(24) 08.08.90	Hull City (Eng)
22	Jonathan **RODRIGUEZ**	(21) 06.07.93	Benfica (Por)
9	Diego **ROLAN**	(22) 24.03.93	Bordeaux (Fra)
11	Christian **STUANI**	(28) 12.10.86	Espanyol (Spa)
COACH			
Oscar **TABAREZ**		(68) 03.03.47	

VENEZUELA

GOALKEEPERS			
1	Alain **BAROJA**	(25) 23.10.89	Caracas
23	Wuilker **FARINEZ**	(17) 15.02.98	Caracas
12	Dani **HERNANDEZ**	(29) 21.10.85	Tenerife (Spa)
DEFENDERS			
5	Fernando **AMOREBIETA**	(30) 29.03.85	Fulham (Eng)
2	Wilker **ANGEL**	(22) 18.03.93	Deportivo Tachira
6	Gabriel **CICHERO**	(31) 25.04.84	Mineros de Guayana
20	Grenddy **PEROZO**	(29) 28.02.86	AC Ajaccio (Fra)
16	Roberto **ROSALES**	(26) 20.11.88	Malaga (Spa)
3	Andres **TUNEZ**	(28) 15.03.87	Buriram United (Tha)
4	Oswaldo **VIZCARRONDO**	(31) 31.05.84	Nantes (Fra)
MIDFIELDERS			
19	Rafael **ACOSTA**	(26) 13.02.89	Mineros de Guayana
18	Juan **ARANGO**	(35) 17.05.80	Tijuana (Mex)
11	Cesar **GONZALEZ**	(32) 01.10.82	Deportivo Tachira
15	Alejandro **GUERRA**	(29) 09.07.85	Atletico Nacional (Col)
14	Franklin **LUCENA**	(34) 20.02.81	Deportivo La Guaira
22	Jhon **MURILLO**	(20) 04.06.95	Benfica (Por)
8	Tomas **RINCON**	(27) 13.01.88	Genoa (Ita)
13	Luis Manuel **SEIJAS**	(28) 23.06.86	Santa Fe (Col)
10	Ronald **VARGAS**	(28) 02.12.86	Balikesirspor (Tur)
FORWARDS			
7	Nicolas **FEDOR**	(29) 19.08.85	Rayo Vallecano (Spa)
17	Josef **MARTINEZ**	(22) 19.05.93	Torino (Ita)
21	Gelmin **RIVAS**	(26) 23.03.89	Deportivo Tachira
9	Salomon **RONDON**	(25) 16.09.89	Zenit (Rus)
COACH			
Noel **SANVICENTE**		(50) 21.12.64	

(ages as of 11.06.15)

World Soccer's GREAT MATCHES

JUNE 17, 1970, AZTECA STADIUM, MEXICO CITY: WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

Italy 4 West Germany 3

Five goals in extra time as West Germany push Italy all the way for a place in the World Cup Final

Drama...Italy win in extra time

When Franz Beckenbauer was told that the 1970 World Cup semi-final between Italy and West Germany had been voted *World Soccer*'s greatest match of all time [in the Summer 2007 edition], he was not surprised. "It was the same when we voted in Germany," he said. "But what people forget is how ordinary the first 90 minutes were.

"It was the 30 minutes of extra time that were so extraordinary."

"*Der Kaiser*", who finished the match with his arm strapped to his side as a result of a brutal foul, was spot on.

Italy scored early in the game and set about defending their lead. The longer the match went on, the more the Germans threw caution to the wind.

Eric Batty wrote in *World Soccer*: "The climax of the competition was undoubtedly the Italy v West Germany semi-final which followed a predictable pattern. Italy, always content to defend, were leading for most of the game by a goal to nil while the Germans threw up everyone they had, including their liberos, Schnellinger and Schulz.

"With two minutes of injury time gone it was Schnellinger – who had abandoned his free role at the back – who threw himself forward, feet first to snatch the goal that forced Italy into extra time."

It was the extra half an hour that defined the game. Five goals were scored in a 16-minute period, with the lead fluctuating back and forth, before Italy substitute Gianni Rivera scored the winner.

Batty added: "The two fiercely fought matches that both went to extra time – West Germany v England (quarter-final) and West Germany v Italy – had a cumulative effect on the German's energy.

"This factor alone probably determined that Italy and not West Germany would face Brazil in the Final." WS

Injured...Beckenbauer

Referee: Yamazaki (Mex)

KEY MOMENTS

First...Sepp Maier is beaten by Boninsegna

7 min Roberto Boninsegna opens the scoring for Italy following an assist by Luigi Riva. **1-0**

90 min Jurgen Grabowski sets up Karl-Heinz Schnellinger for a late equaliser to take the game into extra time. **1-1**

Back in front...Riva makes it 3-2 to Italy

95 min Gerd Muller scores to give the West Germans the lead for the first time in the match. **1-2**

98 min Tarcisio Burgnich draws Italy level following a mistake by substitute Sigi Held. **2-2**

104 min Luigi Riva puts Italy ahead with a powerful low shot from outside the area. **3-2**

110 min Muller scores his second goal of the match after being set up by Uwe Seeler. **3-3**

111 min Within a minute, Boninsegna carves out an opening on the left and his cross is converted by substitute Gianni Rivera for the winning goal. **4-3**

Winner...Rivera (far left) settles matters

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